

**ST ALBANS CITY AND DISTRICT
A PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

**A
REPORT
BY
PMP**

DECEMBER 2005

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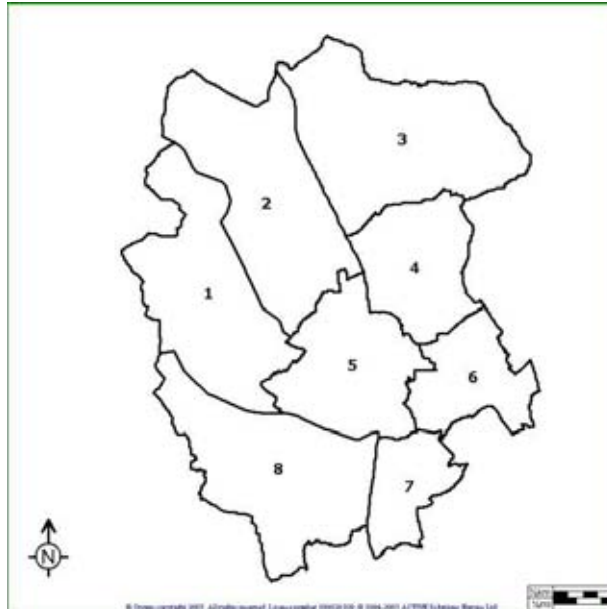
Introduction

- i) St Albans City and District Council appointed PMP to produce three inter-linked strategies:
 - Green Spaces Strategy
 - Playing Pitch Strategy
 - Sport and Recreation Facilities Strategy.
- ii) This report contains the Playing Pitch Strategy, a district-wide playing pitch assessment. The key objectives of the playing pitch study were to:
 - analyse the current level of pitch provision
 - assist the Council in meeting the requirements for playing pitches in accordance with the methodology developed by Sport England in conjunction with the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) and the Central Council for Physical Recreation (CCPR)
 - identify the geographical spread of pitches
 - identify the demand for pitches in the district
 - identify how facilities for pitch sports can be improved
 - evaluate potential strategic options including
 - provision to be protected
 - provision to be enhanced
 - relocation of pitches
 - proposals for new provision.
 - provide information to inform decisions and determine future development proposals including the development of specific local standards relating to playing pitch provision.
- iii) This report contains a review of the current picture, participation trends, an explanation of our methodology, an examination of the supply of and the demand for all playing pitches in the district using the nationally recognised Playing Pitch Methodology (PPM), recommendations and priorities for the future, and an action plan for St Albans City and District Council.

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- iv) Provision is analysed on both a district wide basis, and at eight specifically defined analysis or sub areas. Sub areas have been defined using both natural boundaries (eg railways, roads and rivers) and ward boundaries. The sub areas are illustrated in Map E.1 below and are explained further in section 2 of the full report.

Map E1 – Sub Areas in St Albans



Sub Area	Name
1	Redbourn and surrounds
2	West Harpenden and surrounds
3	East Harpenden and Wheathampstead
4	Sandridge
5	Central
6	Colney Heath
7	London Colney
8	Park Street and St Stephens

The current picture

Wider national policy

- v) There are many national strategies and policy documents that impact upon the Playing Pitch Strategy for St Albans City and District. These include:
- Game Plan (DCMS 2002)
 - Department for Education and Skills: Learning through PE and Sport
 - Planning Policy Guidance 17
 - National Framework for Sport (Sport England)
- vi) The key message from these documents is that the Playing Pitch Strategy should acknowledge the wider benefits of sport and recreation, take into account the need to provide new and innovative solutions, set targets to achieve wider health benefits, and target resources on priority groups.

Playing pitch provision in England

- vii) There are no reliable national estimates of the total recreational land resource or the number of playing pitches in England. Data extracted from the Register of Recreational Land 1991 suggests that there are approximately 70,000 pitches in England. The most recent pitch audit – the Register of English Football Facilities (REFF), was commissioned by the Football Foundation and the Football Association in 2001 and completed in February 2002. Research for REFF revealed that there are 35,044 grass football pitches in England (21,640 adult, 8,418 junior, 4,986 mini).
- viii) There is, however, wide variation by locality, sport and ownership. Through collating previous local pitch strategies, it was calculated the average population per pitch was 989, although this varied from 2,900 in the London Borough of Southwark to 700 in the London Borough of Bromley.
- ix) Statutory consultations with Sport England on planning applications for playing pitches show that Sport England was consulted on 37% more planning applications in 2001 than the previous year. The loss of playing pitches remains a real political issue for the government.

Participation trends in key sports

- x) Key national statistics, trends, issues and implications for future demand for playing pitches are as follows:
 - more female and small sided football: need for more mini pitches and female changing
 - growth of Kwik Cricket and women's cricket – need for mobile pitches and female changing
 - decline in adult rugby and growth of female, junior / mini rugby – need for better quality pitches and ancillary facilities
 - slight decline in adult hockey and slight growth in youth - shortage of synthetic pitches nationally.

Local context

- xi) In addition to the national context, the local context of St Albans City and District is most important in determining the detail of the Playing Pitch Strategy. Relevant generic strategic documents include:
 - the two linked strategies currently under development – the Sport and Recreation Facilities Strategy and the Green Spaces Strategy. Together these documents will form an important strategic direction for sport and leisure provision within St Albans City and District
 - The District Local Plan Review, adopted 1994
 - Corporate Development Plan
 - A Vision for St Albans and District: Community Strategy, 2003
 - Life and Soul - Cultural Strategy 2005

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- Local Agenda 21
 - Community Safety Strategy 2005 - 2008
 - Herts Sports Partnership Annual Reports
 - Business/Sport Development Plan, St Albans Community Leisure and Sports Development Team
 - An Evolving Strategy for Football Facilities: Hertfordshire Local Football Partnership, 2002
- xii) These documents demonstrate the importance of more reliable facilities data, the need to link in with priority sports and to ensure that sports development priorities and facility development are closely linked. They also demonstrate that the Playing Pitch Strategy should recognise the importance of increasing community use of school facilities and enhance ancillary facilities such as changing and floodlighting.

Demographic analysis

- xiii) In analysing the need and demand for any new playing pitches it is important to assess the size and composition of the local leisure markets and the impact they will have upon facility usage.
- xiv) Analysis of initial headline 2001 census data reveals a total population of approximately 129,000, with a relatively slow rate of growth but a high population density relative to the national average. There is a lower than average proportion of ethnic minority groups, with 93.1% of the population being white. Deprivation indices indicate that St Albans is a relatively wealthy district, with no wards in the 50% most deprived in England.

Methodology for assessing supply and demand

Previous approaches to identifying need

- xv) The first attempt to establish a standard of provision for public open space and playing fields was made by the NPFA in 1925 and has been subsequently refined on a number of occasions. It is known as the 'Six Acre Standard'.
- xvi) The Six Acre Standard states that there should be a minimum of 2.4 hectares (or six acres) of 'outdoor playing space' (defined as playing pitches, greens, courts, parks, playgrounds, informal play space) per 1000 population. The minimum standard for playing pitch provision (public, private and school facilities with community use) is recommended to be 1.2 hectares per 1000 population.
- xvii) As with other national 'standards', it has limitations that have been widely acknowledged. Most importantly, the simplicity of its approach means that local considerations are often overlooked (e.g. local league rules, the presence of synthetic turf pitches, pitch quality, pitch capacity, standard of changing provision etc). The Playing Pitch Methodology provides a far more reliable method of assessing provision.

The Playing Pitch Methodology (PPM)

- xviii) The 1991 Playing Pitch Strategy moved away from a standards approach, instead examining the number and characteristics of teams demanding facilities and pitches available to meet that demand. Our process follows the methodology outlined in '*Towards a Level Playing Field: A Manual For The Production Of A Playing Pitch Strategy*' launched in Spring 2003. This revised methodology was produced by PMP following widespread consultation on the 1991 methodology, in conjunction with a steering group comprising representatives from the Central Council of Physical Recreation, Local Government Association, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, Loughborough University and Sport England.
- xix) The essential difference between the methodology and previous approaches based on standards is that, instead of using land area per head of population as the basic unit, it measures demand (at peak times) in terms of teams requiring pitches and then compares this with the pitches available, thus enabling a tangible measure of the adequacy of existing supply.
- xx) The revised methodology incorporates:
- a more holistic view of pitch provision as one element of open space
 - the concept of 'team equivalents' and 'match equivalents' to reflect the requirements of the small-sided games
 - the refinement of team generation rates
 - the revised definition of a pitch
 - the refined quantitative audits of pitches by the use of multiplication factors for:
 - availability / accessibility
 - quality (to include the importance of ancillary provision at pitch sites as well as pitches themselves)
 - carrying capacity.
- xxi) In line with this revised methodology, this Playing Pitch Strategy focuses on pitch provision for football, rugby union, rugby league, hockey, and cricket. It also considers the role that synthetic turf pitches (STPs) can play in meeting the needs of residents of the area.

Our approach

- xxii) A full audit of pitches, users and providers within the district boundary was conducted. Questionnaires were sent to all known football, cricket, rugby union, rugby league and hockey clubs, and all known schools. Telephone interviews were conducted with all contactable non-responding clubs in order to gather the outstanding quantitative information and ensure that no clubs were omitted.
- xxiii) This supply information was then used to calculate shortfalls and surpluses in pitch provision, as set out below.

Supply: playing pitch provision in St Albans

- xxiv) The research methods identified **268 playing pitches in the district**, including all known public, private, school and other pitches whether or not they are in secured public use. They comprise:
- 101 adult football pitches
 - 47 junior football pitches
 - 31 mini soccer pitches
 - 34 cricket pitches
 - 27 adult rugby pitches
 - 6 junior rugby pitches
 - 17 grass hockey pitches
 - 2 lacrosse pitches
 - 3 full sized STPs (including one football synthetic turf pitch).
- xxv) Of these pitches, 179 (67%) are full-size adult football, cricket, rugby and hockey pitches. This equates to circa one pitch for every 557 adults in the district. This ratio is better than the national average in 1991 (Source: The 1991 Playing Pitch Strategy) and compares favourably to the majority of other authorities for which informal data is currently available (from PMP's database). Similarly, in comparison to the estimated national averages, the local ratio for specific sports indicates that St Albans City and District appears relatively well provided for in terms of quantity of playing pitches.

Community pitches

- xxvi) The definition of 'community pitches' is those pitches with 'secured community use', recognising that this has a considerable bearing upon the value of facilities both individually and collectively to the community at large. In line with *'Towards A Level Playing Field'*, pitches at educational establishments are only considered to be 'secured' for community use if one or more of the following is applicable:
- there is a formal community use agreement in place
 - there is a leasing management arrangement between the Council and the school requiring the pitch to be available to community teams
 - a policy of community use minuted by the school, including the provision of a tariff of charges
 - minutes of the board of school governors allowing use of pitches by community teams
 - written commitment from the school
 - where it is the proved intention of the school to maintain access for community teams to its pitch(es) at peak times for the next two or more years.

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xxvii) Of the 268 pitches identified, **128 (48%) are secured for the local community**. This is low in comparison to other authorities. This does not take into account schools which offer community use without official secured agreements.

xxviii) The 128 secured community pitches comprise:

- 66 adult football pitches
- 13 junior football pitches
- 17 mini-soccer pitches
- 15 cricket pitches
- 14 adult rugby pitches
- 0 junior rugby pitches
- 2 adult grass hockey pitches
- 1 synthetic turf pitch.

xxix) There are three synthetic turf pitches within the district, but only one of these, at Clarence Park, is suitable for hockey. The others (Old Albanians and Harvesters FC) are primarily for tennis and football and are not suitable for competitive hockey. They have therefore been excluded from playing pitch methodology calculations.

Location of pitches

xxx) The location of the existing secured community pitches in the city and district has been examined by using the analysis areas.

Table E1 - Total community pitches by sub area catchment in 2003/04

Analysis Area	Total playing pitches
Redbourn and surrounds	11
West Harpenden and surrounds	29
East Harpenden and Wheathampstead	8
Sandridge	4
Central	42
Colney Heath	8
London Colney	16
Park Street and St Stephens	10
TOTAL	128

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Ownership

- xxxi) The largest provider of pitches available for community use is the City and District Council, owning 56 pitches (44% of all community use pitches).
- xxxii) Only 9 pitches on education sites are formally secured for public use – just 7% of the total number of LEA owned pitches. No pitches at independent schools are considered to be formally secured for use by the community at present.
- xxxiii) Parish/Town Councils are the second largest provider of community pitches, with 37 pitches (equating to 28% of all community use pitches) of which 18 are adult football pitches.
- xxxiv) The voluntary sector play an important role in pitch provision in St Albans, predominantly focussed on adult rugby pitches with the voluntary sector forming the only provider of these pitches within the district.

Quality of pitch and ancillary facilities - survey response and site visits

- xxxv) All sports clubs playing on pitches in the district were asked about their perceptions of pitch quality by postal questionnaire. Perceived quality of pitches (and ancillary facilities) is almost as important as actual quality as it can heavily influence the pattern of play. The survey showed that most clubs would like improved quality of pitch surface and changing.
- xxxvi) Clubs were asked to comment on the best and worst pitches they had experienced over the course of the season. Football pitches within the district which were frequently criticised in questionnaire responses included:
 - William Bird
 - Westminster Lodge
 - Colney Heath
 - Rothamsted Park
 - Cunningham Hill.
- xxxvii) Issues such as lack of appropriate changing facilities, vandalism, poor drainage and uneven surfaces have resulted in not all community pitches remaining playable, and cancellations at many sites.

Demand: pitch sport clubs in St Albans

- xxxviii) Table E2 illustrates the number of football, cricket, hockey, rugby league and rugby union teams playing on pitches in St Albans. These include adult, junior and mini teams. Key facts and figures for each sport are summarised after the table. The full list can be found in Appendix F of the full playing pitch assessment.

Table E2 Sports clubs using playing pitches in St Albans City and District

	Football	Cricket	Rugby Union	Rugby League	Hockey	TOTAL
Total number of clubs	97	20	4	2	1	124
Total number of teams	278	76	44	6	25	429
Number of adult teams	121	51	23	3	15	213
Number of junior teams	113	22	15	3	10	163
Number of mini-teams	44	3	6	0	0	53

- xxxix) There are increasing numbers of junior and mini soccer teams, and the demand for provision for female teams is growing rapidly. In addition, junior and female cricket is likely to increase and there is a requirement for separate segregated facilities to accommodate females and young players. There are a number of clubs developing strong junior sections and there is potential that players participating at this age will continue to play through the age groups, eventually stimulating increased demand in senior sport. It is likely that there will be increased demand for pitches in future years.
- xl) Due to a perceived lack of available STPs within the district, three hockey clubs currently use facilities outside of the district as competitive match venues. Their current venues are not their preferred locations for these clubs.

The Playing Pitch Methodology

- xli) The Playing Pitch Methodology (PPM) comprises eight stages. Stages 1 to 6 involve numerical calculations, based on the number of pitches and number of teams, whilst Stages 7 and 8 develop issues and solutions.
- xlii) It is implicit to the method that each sport is dealt with individually with a specific set of calculations for each because, despite some superficial similarities, they exhibit very different patterns of play. We have also analysed junior and adult football and rugby separately because younger players play on smaller pitches.
- xliii) *Towards A Level Playing Field* allows authorities to take into account the carrying capacity (i.e. the number of games that pitches are adequately able to sustain per week) when calculating the playing pitch methodology. We have undertaken the assessment both with and without an allowance for carrying capacity.
- xliv) Without taking into account carrying capacity or other detailed issues such as teams playing outside the district, the basic calculation for the whole district indicates that:
- there is a shortfall of 20.9 junior football pitches on the peak day (Sunday)

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- there is an overall surplus of 23.7 adult football pitches on Sundays
- there is a shortfall of 10.6 cricket pitches on peak Saturdays
- there is a shortfall of 9 junior rugby pitches on peak Sundays
- there is a surplus of 3 adult rugby pitches
- there is an overall shortfall of 1 STP.

Analysing provision in the district in more detail

- xlv) Analysis areas have been used to assess pitch provision more locally. The table below reveals the shortfall/surplus by each area. Shortfalls are highlighted in red.
- xlvi) ***In all of the summary tables that follow, figures are rounded to one decimal place. Calculations for the total over/undersupply are based on the unrounded figure for each analysis area. Due to the subsequent rounding of figures for summary purposes within each analysis area, these figures may not equate exactly to the figure for total under/over supply when rounded to one decimal place.***

Table E3 Summary of PPM results by area in 2003/04

PPM Summary table 2003/04 - Analysis Area	Adult Football	Junior Football	Cricket	Adult Rugby	Junior Rugby	Total pitches
Redbourn and Surrounds	1.3	-4.6	-2.2	0.0	0.0	-5.5
West Harpenden and Surrounds	6.5	2.8	-3.7	1.9	-4.5	3.0
East Harpenden and Wheathampstead	2.6	-3.2	-1.1	0.0	0.0	-1.7
Sandridge	1.3	1.0	-1.1	0.0	0.0	1.2
Central	5.5	-0.1	-0.6	0.8	-4.5	1.0
Colney Heath	1.6	-11.4	0.0	-0.6	0.0	-10.4
London Colney	3.2	-5.5	0.0	0.9	0.0	-1.5
Park Street and St Stephens	1.9	0.1	-1.9	0.0	0.0	0.1
Total	23.7	-20.9	-10.6	3.0	-9.0	-13.9

- numbers = shortfall

Projections for 2013

- xlvi) We have used Team Generation Rates, projected population increases and the potential impact of sports development programmes to estimate demand in 2013 and apply the PPM for the future. It should be noted however that calculations for 2013

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assume uniform participation across the wards in each analysis area and do not take into consideration where pitches are, or where teams are currently based. Consequently comparison with 2003/04 calculations should only be conducted at a district level.

xlvi) The results from this analysis show:

Table E4 Summary of PPM results by analysis area for 2013

PPM Summary table 2013	Adult Football	Junior Football	Cricket	Adult Rugby	Junior Rugby	Total pitches
Redbourn and Surrounds	-2.7	-2.5	-2.6	-0.5	-0.4	-8.8
West Harpenden and Surrounds	9.9	-1.7	-4.9	-0.1	-3.3	-0.1
East Harpenden and Wheathampstead	0.2	-2.0	-1.4	-2.2	-1.8	-7.1
Sandridge	1.6	0.7	-1.4	-1.1	-0.9	-1.2
Central	11.4	-8.1	-1.7	-0.5	-4.5	-3.3
Colney Heath	-5.4	-7.5	-1.3	0.3	-1.4	-15.4
London Colney	-0.5	-4.0	-1.9	1.5	-1.2	-6.1
Park Street and St Stephens	2.5	-1.0	-2.5	-1.2	-1.0	-3.2
Total	17.0	-26.2	-17.7	-3.8	-14.5	-45.3

- demand for pitches will increase
- there will be a significant overall undersupply of 45 pitches in the district, focused primarily on junior pitches
- there will still be an oversupply of adult football pitches, equivalent to 17 pitches, although there will be an undersupply in Redbourn, Colney Heath and London Colney, which are outlying areas
- the largest overall undersupply will be in Area 6 – Colney Heath, where the undersupply will be caused predominantly through significant shortages in both adult and junior football pitches
- there will be an undersupply of cricket pitches across the district equivalent to 17.7 pitches
- there will be an undersupply of junior rugby pitches in all areas
- all analysis areas see predicted increases in pitch demand from 2003/04 to 2013 clearly reflecting the projected increase in population and impacts of increased sports demand.

xlvi) Maps showing surplus and deficiency by area and by sport for 2003/04 and 2013 are

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shown in Section 5 of the full report.

Carrying Capacity – the local situation

- i) Alternative evidence (cancellation figures, pitch bookings, consultation) suggests that in reality, the quantitative picture outlined may not accurately reflect the current playing pitch situation in St Albans (in particular adult football pitches).
- ii) The new Playing Pitch Methodology, *Towards A Level Playing Field*, suggests that the quality of a pitch should be taken into account, and that all pitches may not be able to take 2 matches per week. In addition to running the playing pitch methodology based on the actual number of pitches available, we have recalculated the methodology taking into account the **perceived** quality of the pitches.
- lii) There is no formula for calculating the carrying capacity of pitches, as it is dependent on a wide range of factors such as weather conditions, age/weight of users, quality of players etc. However, through local knowledge, user surveys, site visits, interviews and an analysis of usage patterns from previous seasons it is possible to consider the approximate capacity of each pitch. We have reached conclusions on carrying capacity using these methods to provide a more realistic assessment of shortfalls and surpluses in St Albans.
- liii) The audit was therefore revised, taking into account the overall quality of the pitches.

Table E5 Summary of Pitches by area (taking into account carrying capacity)

PPM Summary table 2003/04 - Analysis Area	Adult Football	Junior Football	Cricket	Adult Rugby	Junior Rugby	Total pitches
Redbourn and Surrounds	1.3	-4.6	-2.2	0.0	0.0	-5.5
West Harpenden and Surrounds	2.0	2.8	-3.7	1.9	-4.5	-1.5
East Harpenden and Wheathampstead	0.6	-3.2	-1.1	0.0	0.0	-3.7
Sandridge	1.3	1.0	-1.1	0.0	0.0	1.2
Central	-7.1	-0.1	-0.6	0.8	-4.5	-11.6
Colney Heath	1.6	-11.4	0.0	-0.6	0.0	-10.4
London Colney	2.2	-5.5	0.0	0.9	0.0	-2.5
Park Street and St Stephens	-0.2	0.1	-1.9	0.0	0.0	-1.9
Total	1.7	-20.9	-10.6	3.0	-9.0	-35.9

- overall, undersupply has risen to the equivalent of 35.9 pitches within the district. Only Sandridge shows an overall oversupply

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- the poor quality of adult football pitches is evident, as supply is now almost equivalent to demand, with a surplus of just 1.7 pitches
 - the largest undersupply is in the Central area where there is a shortfall equating to 11.6 pitches. Of this shortfall, 7.1 pitches are adult football pitches. Park Street and St Stephens is the only other area to show an undersupply in adult football pitches, although with the exception of London Colney, none of the remaining areas highlight an oversupply of more than 2 pitches
 - Colney Heath also has a large overall shortfall although this is due to a significant undersupply of junior football pitches
 - the significant shortfall of junior pitches and cricket pitches remains
 - quality of rugby pitches is good and all pitches are considered able to sustain a minimum two games per week, so there remains a degree of overprovision.
- liv) Carrying Capacity data can also be used to forecast future supply. The table below shows the situation in 2013 by area, taking into account the carrying capacity of pitches. This assumes that no upgrades have been made to any of the pitches, and they are able to sustain the same level of provision as they are today. It should be noted however that calculations for 2013 assume uniform participation across the wards in each analysis area and do not take into consideration where pitches are, or where teams are currently based. Consequently comparison with 2003/04 calculations should only be conducted at a district level.

Table E6 Provision of Pitches in 2013 by area, taking into account carrying capacity

PPM Summary table 2013	Adult Football	Junior Football	Cricket	Adult Rugby	Junior Rugby	Total pitches
Redbourn and Surrounds	-2.7	-2.5	-2.6	-0.5	-0.4	-8.8
West Harpenden and Surrounds	5.4	-1.7	-4.9	-0.1	-3.3	-4.6
East Harpenden and Wheathampstead	-1.8	-2	-1.4	-2.2	-1.8	-9.1
Sandridge	1.6	0.7	-1.4	-1.1	-0.9	-1.2
Central	-1.1	-8.1	-1.7	-0.5	-4.5	-15.8
Colney Heath	-5.4	-7.5	-1.3	0.3	-1.4	-15.4
London Colney	-1.5	-4	-1.9	1.5	-1.2	-7.1
Park Street and St Stephens	0.5	-1	-2.5	-1.2	-1.0	-5.2
Total	-5	-26.2	-17.7	-3.8	-14.5	-67.3

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- the district wide picture remains similar to the current situation, with an overall undersupply of pitches. The overall undersupply has increased to 67 pitches
- the analysis highlights a growth in the undersupply of adult football provision, and continued significant overall shortfalls in cricket and junior football
- all areas of the district now show an overall undersupply of pitches with Central and Colney Heath having the largest shortfalls and Sandridge the least.

Summary of findings and recommendations

- lv) There is a need to protect and enhance existing provision, overcome identified deficiencies, ensure quality management and apply local standards.
- lvi) Unsecured school sites currently used by clubs play a vital role in provision and the Council should begin negotiations with these schools to secure the future use of these pitches.
- lvii) It is recommended that negotiations are undertaken to formally secure a number of school sites for long-term community use. Initial agreements should be drawn up with schools that currently accommodate community teams at weekends. **Formal agreements must not compromise curricular physical education.**
- lviii) Greater emphasis should be placed on improving the quality of pitches and ancillary facilities. This strategy has identified 19 sites in need of improvement, which should be ranked against an agreed criteria to determine priorities for action.
- lix) Undersupplies currently exist, particularly in junior pitch provision.
- lx) Suggested solutions for dealing with undersupplies include:

Sport	Solutions / recommendations
Adult Football: <i>small oversupply, except in Central area</i>	Improve quality of pitches across the district, particularly large sites and those with greatest quality deficiencies Designate a multi-pitch site specifically for women's football and develop appropriate changing facilities Ensure rest and recovery for all pitches Convert any remaining surplus to junior football
Junior/ mini Football <i>significant undersupply, focussed in Colney Heath and London Colney</i>	Develop community use agreements with schools Identify sites for development in Colney Heath, the area of greatest undersupply Ensure the new pitch at Harvesters FC is programmed for junior football Long term aim to provide mini and junior pitches in each area

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Sport	Solutions / recommendations
Cricket <i>Large undersupply, predicted to increase</i>	<p>Improve quality of Council owned pitches, with Rothamsted Park and William Bird priorities</p> <p>Remark the additional pitch at Verulamium Park</p> <p>Develop community use agreements with schools for club use</p>
Rugby <i>Oversupply in adult; undersupply in junior</i>	<p>Develop links with clubs to discuss pitch improvement / protection</p> <p>Consider re-designating adult pitches to junior pitches in short term</p> <p>Junior rugby – encourage use of school sites</p> <p>Seek section 106 developer contributions</p> <p>Explore grant funding for pitch development</p>
Hockey <i>Undersupply in STPs</i>	<p>Shortfall in STP provision – 2 further STPs</p> <p>One pitch needed in Harpenden area for use by hockey clubs currently playing outside the district</p> <p>Develop Highfield Park pitch for football training and hockey</p>

- lxi) Contributions for open space provision, including playing pitches and ancillary facilities should be sought from housing developments, with provision for maintenance costs.
- lxii) The Council should use a prioritisation process model and apply set criteria to inform funding decisions.
- lxiii) No pitches in St Albans City and District should be sold due to current shortfalls and predicted increased demand, unless the sale of the existing site releases funds for a net increase in the quantity or quality of provision.
- lxiv) All available sources of grant aid and sponsorship should be explored to fund the improvements outlined in this strategy.
- lxv) A local standard of 1.35 hectares of formal playing fields with secured community use per 1,000 population should be applied to future planning policy.

Action Plan

- lxvi) Whilst the Playing Pitch Strategy contains findings and recommendations which are applicable to partner agencies and wider stakeholders, the document concludes with an action plan that outlines projects specifically for St Albans City and District Council to implement over the life of the strategy.

SECTION 1
INTRODUCTION

Introduction

- 1.1 St Albans City and District Council appointed PMP to produce three inter-linked strategies:
- Green Spaces Strategy – informing the planning process: quality, quantity and accessibility
 - Playing Pitch Strategy – quantity, quality, location, gaps and surpluses
 - Sport and Recreation Facilities Strategy – a vision for facilities.
- 1.2 This report contains the Playing Pitch Strategy, a district-wide playing pitch assessment, taking into account sports pitches across both rural and urban areas of the district. The Sport and Recreation Facilities Strategy and the Green Spaces Strategy are under separate cover.
- 1.3 The key objectives of the playing pitch study were to:
- analyse the current level of pitch provision
 - assist the Council in meeting the requirements for playing pitches in accordance with the methodology developed by Sport England in conjunction with the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) and the Central Council for Physical Recreation (CCPR)
 - identify the geographical spread of pitches
 - identify the demand for pitches in the district
 - identify how facilities for pitch sports can be improved
 - run the playing pitch methodology (explained in detail in Section five) to ascertain levels of under/over supply
 - analyse the results of the supply and demand analysis (undertaken using the Playing Pitch Methodology) taking into account the quality of pitches
 - evaluate potential strategic options including
 - provision to be protected
 - provision to be enhanced
 - relocation of pitches
 - proposals for new provision.
 - provide information to inform decisions and determine future development proposals including the development of specific local standards relating to playing pitch provision.
- 1.4 This assessment is primarily concerned with voluntary participation in competitive association football (referred to in this document as 'football'), cricket, rugby league, rugby union and hockey, by adults and young people. It presents the key findings arising from extensive survey work and consultation, highlighting areas of both

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concern and opportunity. It is important to emphasise that this document examines the provision of playing pitches (i.e. the playing surface, safety margins and the wider area for repositioning the pitch within the playing field) and not playing fields or open spaces (which include grass or other areas which are not used for sport). This is a key distinction since some of the areas surrounding pitches are not used for sport but are important in terms of open space.

1.5 The following key areas are covered within this document:

- the current picture – a review of current participation trends and playing pitch provision in England, at national and local levels
- methodology – a summary of the research process
- supply and demand – a quantitative and qualitative appraisal of the extent to which existing playing pitch provision meets the current (and future) competitive needs of pitch sports
- an application of Sport England's Playing Pitch Methodology (PPM)
- an application of the NPFA's Six Acre Standard (in Appendix A)
- key actions, recommendations and priorities for the future based on development of the main issues arising from the supply and demand consultation and PPM analysis.

1.6 Provision is analysed on both a district wide basis, and at a more localised level, using eight specifically defined analysis or sub areas. These sub areas take into account both parish boundaries, and physical boundaries within the district including the main railway line, motorways and primary roads.

1.7 The sub areas are illustrated in Map 1.1 below.

Map 1.1 – Sub Areas in St Albans



Sub Area	Name
1	Redbourn and surrounds
2	West Harpenden and surrounds
3	East Harpenden and Wheathampstead
4	Sandridge
5	Central
6	Colney Heath
7	London Colney
8	Park Street and St Stephens

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- 1.8 The central urban area of St Albans is analysed as one area. This area includes the wards of St Peters, Clarence, Ashley, Batchwood, Verulam, Sopwell and Cunningham. The north of the district is split into three, (areas 1, 2 and 3) using the barriers of the main railway line and the A5183.
- 1.9 The south of the district has been split using the boundaries of the M10 and the main railway line. The parishes of London Colney and Colney Heath, which in many respects act as towns that are separate from the district, are treated as two distinct analysis areas. London Colney is separated from the central and St Stephens analysis areas by the main railway line. The Sandridge area is separated from the others using the central ward boundaries, the parish boundaries and the main railway line.

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St Albans Now

- 2.1 This Section of the strategy describes the current situation in St Albans City and District. It contains the following information:
- context: a review of national, regional and local strategies relevant to sport and recreation in the district, together with an analysis of demographic and participation trends, and other local context such as transport and employment
 - playing pitch provision – the national context and the local context
 - analysis areas: their composition and assumed populations.

National and regional context

Strategic review

- 2.2 Despite the explosion of local authority provision during the 1970's and recent private health and fitness boom, participation has remained static at about 33% of the adult population. There has been increased pressure on local authority budgets and there is an ageing stock of expensive facilities that are not suited to meet the needs of new activities and participants.
- 2.3 **Game Plan** is the key national document that sets out the strategy for addressing these issues and delivering Government's sport and physical activity objectives. It is the Government's long-term vision for increasing participation and high performance in sport. Specifically Game Plan:
- provides facts about sport and physical activity in the UK and where problems lie
 - provides evidence of the benefits of sport and physical activity
 - explores a vision of sport and physical activity in 2020
 - gives recommendations and sets targets for participation, high performance sport and mega sporting events.
- 2.4 **Game Plan's** remit is wider than sport alone and recognises the link between physical activity and improving health and the importance of focussing on young people. Major investment to date and continuing investment relevant to this project has been made into schools through the Physical Education, School Sport and Club Link Strategy (PESSCL).
- 2.5 The report highlights the need to target resources in particular towards those who live in economically-disadvantaged areas in order to encourage participation. It also calls for greater emphasis to be placed on partnership working for the funding and delivery of sport and physical activity at a local and regional level.
- 2.6 The long term vision of **Game Plan** is:
- “by 2020 to increase significantly levels of sport and physical activity, particularly among disadvantaged groups, and to achieve sustained levels of success in international competition”***

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2.7 The plan gives details of how over £2bn of Government and Lottery money will be going into sport in the next 3 years. The aims of the document are to:

- encourage mass participation culture, with a target of achieving 70% of the population active (currently 30%)
- enhance international success.

What does this mean for St Albans City and District?

2.8 The impact of **Game Plan** on this strategy is that it should:

- provide new and innovative solutions
- acknowledge the wider benefits of sport and recreation
- set targets to achieve wider health benefits from sport and recreation
- target resources on priority groups - children and young people, women, and older people - and economically deprived neighbourhoods
- seek to provide innovative refurbishment solutions required through wider partnerships
- provide for an inter-dependent network of facilities that work locally
- consider multi sport facilities (e.g. 5-a-side, indoor tennis, skate boarding, swimming pool, crèche, internet café, local resource centre)
- seek to extend connections with health, education, community development and youth
- have a robust monitoring and evaluation process, with success evaluated against:
 - the impact on participation
 - a cost/benefit analysis
 - the “fit” with objectives such as reduced crime, social cohesion etc.

DfES: Learning through PE and Sport (2003)

2.9 The Department for Education and Skills (DfES) document 'Learning through PE and Sport' stresses the importance of PE and sport in schools (curricular and extracurricular).

2.10 The key themes of this document include:

- schools as a community resource
- 'lifelong learning'
- extended schools programme.

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What does this mean for St Albans City and District?

2.11 In the light of this document, the St Albans City and District strategy should consider:

- opening up of school sports facilities for community use
- joint working between St Albans City and District Council, Hertfordshire County Council Children, School and Families Department and other local partners with clearly defined roles and responsibilities.

Sport England – Making England an Active and Successful Sporting Nation

2.12 Following the publication of **Game Plan**, Sport England has undergone radical organisational changes and a new vision has evolved. This vision is underpinned by three key objectives:

- opportunities to play in sport
- opportunities to stay in sport
- opportunities to achieve success in sport.

What does this mean for St Albans City and District?

- more emphasis needs to be placed on sport and physical activity within schools and school-club links
- new and innovative solutions are required such as multi sport facilities (eg 5-a-side, skate boarding, swimming pool, crèche, internet café, local resource centre)
- facilities are needed in connection with health, education, community development and youth.

Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (Planning for Open Space Sport and Recreation, July 2002) and its Companion Guide (September 2002)

2.13 Planning Policy Guidance Notes set out the Government's national policies on different aspects of planning.

2.14 PPG17 states that *"the government expects all local authorities to carry out assessments of needs and audits of open space and sports and recreational facilities"*.

2.15 Well designed and implemented planning policies for open space, sport and recreation are fundamental to delivering broader Government objectives, which include:

- supporting an urban renaissance
- supporting a rural renewal
- promotion of social inclusion and community cohesion
- health and well being
- promoting more sustainable development.

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- 2.16 The policy guidance highlights the requirement for local authority decisions regarding open space, sport and recreation to be informed by local needs assessments and an audit of existing provision. Such audits should incorporate qualitative, quantitative and accessibility considerations as well as the overall non-monetary value of the land including the level of use.
- 2.17 Other subsequent changes in this planning policy document compared to previous policies are:
- the definition of open space should be taken to mean all open space of public value, including not just land, but also areas of water such as rivers, canals and lakes which offer important opportunities for sport and recreation
 - a greater emphasis is placed on qualitative considerations – this is particularly important as it will allow local authorities to identify potential for increased use through better design, management and/or maintenance of open space, sport and recreation
 - it advocates the setting of local standards appropriate to the local area rather than assessment by national standards although these can be used as benchmarks – the Government believes that national standards are inappropriate, as they do not take into account the demographics of an area, the specific needs of residents and the extent of built development
 - it provides further guidance on the constituent elements of open space typologies
 - it clearly acknowledges the multiple functions that open spaces can perform.
- 2.18 The policy guidance sets out priorities for local authorities in terms of:
- assessing needs and opportunities – undertaking audits of open space, sport and recreational facilities
 - setting local standards
 - maintaining an adequate supply of open space
 - planning for new open space.
- 2.19 The companion guide sets out the process for undertaking local assessments of needs and audits of provision. It also:
- indicates how councils can establish the needs of local communities and apply provision standards
 - promotes a consistent approach across varying types of open space, sport and recreation facilities.

What does this mean for St Albans City and District?

- the importance of local needs assessments considering local supply and demand rather than a reliance on national standards is clear.

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Choosing Health: Making healthy choices easier

- 2.20 The Choosing Health White Paper emphasises that the 21st century citizen should actively look towards a healthier approach to life. By listening to people's views and taking into account the realities of lifestyles three core principles towards making healthy choices easier have emerged:
- Informed Choice – people able to make their own decisions
 - Personalisation – support for individuals
 - Working together – effective partnerships.
- 2.21 The consultation process also identified the following overarching priorities:
- reducing the number of people who smoke
 - reducing obesity and improving diet and nutrition
 - increasing exercise
 - encouraging and supporting sensible drinking
 - improving sexual health
 - improving mental health.
- 2.22 As consumers the choices we make can affect our health, the Government White Paper aims to set out a modern strategy encompassing access and quality of information.
- 2.23 Supporting children at a young age, by providing accessible health and social care, puts them on the right path for the future. Health is seen as a way of life – providing people with the tools to make informed lifestyle choices.

Choosing Activity: A physical activity action plan

- 2.24 This paper outlines the Government's plans to encourage and co-ordinate the action of a range of departments and organisations to promote increased participation in physical activity across England.
- 2.25 The aim of the plan is to promote activity for all, in line with the Chief Medical Officers recommendations – at least five times a week.
- 2.26 The key outcomes of the action plan can be summarised as:
- improve information and raise awareness of the benefits of activity
 - support activity in the community by addressing barriers such as safety, cost and locality
 - support activity in early years and schools and improve community access to school facilities
 - support and encourage everyday activities like walking and cycling.

What does this mean for St Albans City and District?

- 2.27 Sports pitch provision can play a key role in achieving the wider objectives set out in these documents both on a national and local level.

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Local context

- 2.28 Whilst consideration of the national context is important, the local context of St Albans City and District is most important in determining the detail of the Playing Pitch Strategy. Relevant documents are discussed below.

Local strategies

St Albans City and District Council Corporate Plan 2005-06

- 2.29 The Council's vision, set out in the 2005/06 Corporate Plan, is:

“To preserve and enhance the distinctive character of St Albans City and District, making it an outstanding place to live, work and to visit, where everyone enjoys a range of quality and efficient services in a progressive, caring and environmentally concerned community.”

- 2.30 There are five corporate aims underpinning this vision:

- Aim 1:** To build a community that is open, fair and inclusive
- Aim 2:** To work in partnership for the health and well being of the community
- Aim 3:** To cherish and promote our heritage, arts and culture
- Aim 4:** To safeguard the environment
- Aim 5:** To ensure the District is a desirable place in which to live and work

- 2.31 The Council recognises the need to work in partnership to meet community need, and outlines its commitment to work in partnership with the County Council, the police, NHS, voluntary and community groups.

- 2.32 A number of priority actions have been identified which relate to the improvement, management and use of open space, specifically protecting and enhancing the environment, improving local provision and encouraging healthy lifestyles:

- working with partners to improve community safety and reduce anti-social behaviour - producing a Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy for 2005/08
- developing and delivering healthy living projects - initiating a healthy walks programme and appointing a health and physical well-being outreach officer
- developing activities for children and young people - creating an innovative toddlers' splash park in Verulamium Park
- improving the River Ver and Verulamium Park - publishing results of the preliminary application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for financial support to improve Verulamium Park, the River Ver and the lakes
- increasing the provision of dedicated cycling routes - by exploring and publishing results of a feasibility study for a north/south and east/west cycle route across Verulamium Park
- preserving parks and green spaces - by undertaking improvements to Clarence Park pavilion and enhancing and maintaining the Alban Way, Nicky Line and Lea Valley Walk green access routes

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- improving children's playing facilities - by developing a new play area at Sandringham Crescent, St Albans.

City and District of St Albans: District Local Plan, adopted 1994

- 2.33 The early stages of preparation of new style Development Plan Documents (DPDs) are currently underway and will lead to the replacement of the adopted Local Plan. The Sport and Recreation Facilities Strategy, Playing Pitch Strategy and the Green Spaces Strategy will provide essential background information which will inform strategic policy formulation and development control decisions. District Plan Policy 91 provides overall guidance on the location of leisure facilities, and indicates that:

“New leisure proposals and extensions to existing facilities will not normally be permitted unless they are acceptable in terms of location, access, car parking, environmental impact and safety”

- 2.34 The Plan states the Council's intention to increase and improve the provision of indoor facilities in areas not served by existing sports provision both through its own projects and encouraging new provision.
- 2.35 In addition, it is the intention of the Council to continue to investigate and promote joint provision and dual use of educational and other leisure facilities to promote the development of multi-purpose buildings for leisure use.
- 2.36 In terms of guidance regarding the location and development of playing pitches, the adopted local plan states that playing space should be provided to meet the NPFA target of 2.4 hectares per 1,000 population. This space should be distributed within the open space hierarchy to meet the needs of all age groups.
- 2.37 Although at the time of production total acreage of existing playing space within the District met the NPFA target, there were areas with shortages of certain types of sports provision. New pitches to help overcome perceived shortages and meet future needs were therefore proposed, including Crabtree Fields, Harpenden.
- 2.38 The Plan states that existing recreational open space should normally be retained. It also sets provision standards for the district. These include:

Table 2.2

Type of Open Space	Size Range	Catchment (Maximum distance from homes)
District Park	Over 20ha	2 miles
Local Park	2-20ha	¾ mile
Small Local Park	0.8-2ha	¼ mile
Children's Play Area	0.4-0.8ha	¼ mile
Toddlers' Play Space	20m ² – 100m ²	Less than 200m

- 2.39 The Plan identifies potential areas of new open space in areas where there are deficiencies, or where provision is needed for new housing.
- 2.40 In addition, Policy 95 indicates that development which results in the loss of statutory or non statutory allotments will not be accepted unless suitable replacements are offered or

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there is no remaining need for the allotments site. Policy Intention 23 indicates that applications which result in the loss of definitive rights of way will be resisted.

Community Strategy, produced by the Local Strategic Partnership for St Albans and District, 2003

- 2.41 The Community Strategy has been produced with the aim (among others) of:

“Developing a district where everyone can enjoy and have access to learning, leisure and the arts regardless of their age, ability or ethnic background”

- 2.42 A number of priorities have been identified. Priorities which are particularly relevant to leisure include:

- improving health and well being by increasing participation for all groups in sport and leisure activities
- developing sports and leisure facilities in partnership across the district
- encouraging schools and communities to work together more closely.

Life and Soul – St Albans City and District Cultural Strategy (2005)

- 2.43 The St Albans City and District Cultural Strategy has been influenced by and integrated with a number of other strategies. It sets out a framework for the provision of culture in the district that seeks to:

- promote a sense of cultural well-being
- advocate the benefits of cultural activities
- focus on the needs and aspirations of residents and visitors
- ensure equity and access to cultural activities for everyone
- identify key priorities for action and improvement
- develop links to other strategies to promote partnership working and facilitate change
- act as a lever and rationale for gaining funding from external agencies.

- 2.44 The strategy highlights the important characteristics of the district and establishes a clear vision for the future development of culture. It sets out a series of strategic objectives which are to be achieved through close partnership working.

- 2.45 Sport and recreation facilities are key vehicles for achieving these objectives which include:

- enabling all residents and visitors to have access to range of cultural opportunities
- maximising the contribution culture makes to the health, well-being and safety of everyone
- protecting and enhancing the environment and heritage
- developing a sustainable cultural economy.

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Working Toward Tomorrow – Local Agenda 21 Strategy

- 2.46 The Local Agenda 21 strategy sets benchmarks for existing and future environmental policies, providing a framework for the Council to express its objectives, programmes and priorities for sustainable actions and development. The strategy provides a context for decision making on environmental and social issues.
- 2.47 Vision statements and targets for environmental improvement and partnership working are set for seven key areas:
- awareness raising and education
 - lifestyle
 - energy, water and air quality
 - nature conservation
 - economic development
 - transport
 - waste.
- 2.48 The focus on sustainability and environmental improvement should be a key theme in the development and management of sport and leisure facilities.

St Albans City and District Community Safety Strategy 2005 – 2008

- 2.49 The strategy sets out the strategic priorities for the St Albans City and District Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership addressing both national priorities and areas of local concern. It considers both reactive and preventative measures that will be undertaken by the partnership over the next three years.
- 2.50 The four overriding strategic priorities are:
- reduce crime
 - reduce anti social behaviour
 - reduce harm caused to communities by drugs
 - build community confidence.
- 2.51 These are supported by four cross cutting areas of work all of which contribute to the achievement of these strategic priorities. Sport and recreation facilities can play an important role in the achievement of these objectives.

Herts Sports Partnership

- 2.52 The Herts Sports Partnership is one of 45 county sports partnerships in the UK. It was formed in January 2004 following a merger of Herts Active Sports and the Herts Sports Forum.
- 2.53 The core aim of the partnership is to increase participation in sport and physical recreation throughout Hertfordshire. They aim to achieve this through development of

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clubs, coaches, officials and volunteers, and by providing a single voice for sport in Hertfordshire.

District context

- 2.54 St Albans is one of 10 districts in Hertfordshire, and is bordered by Bedfordshire (Luton) to the North, North Herts to the North East, Welwyn Hatfield to the East, Watford and Hertsmere to the South, Three Rivers to the South West, and Dacorum to the West.

Map 2.1



- 2.55 St Albans is ideally located for easy access to London and the Midlands, with excellent road, rail and bus services. It is:
- 14 miles north of London
 - easily accessible from the M1, A1, M25
 - located on a mainline railway into London, with access to Thameslink services
 - served by comprehensive bus and national coach network links.
- 2.56 St Albans City and District has a reputation as being an affluent, prosperous and highly qualified area. Council data indicates that at the close of 1999, unemployment was 0.9%, the lowest in Hertfordshire, much lower than the London rate of 7.0% and the national figure of 5.9%. By 2003, unemployment had risen to 1% in St Albans, (the London Colney area experienced the largest increase) in comparison to 2.4% nationally. House prices are among the highest in the UK, and the levels of attainment in education are also high compared to national averages: GCSE results for district schools show 63% of pupils achieving 5 A* - C grades, compared with a national average of around 46%. In the working population, 33% are employed in professional and managerial occupations.
- 2.57 The close proximity to London, and in particular the excellent rail and road communications, has a significant effect on the district's economic activity. St Albans has a highly skilled workforce and ranks no.1 in the county and a large proportion of the

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population (around 51%) travel out of the district to work. However, the district does have distinct and thriving local business community, which provides over 46,000 jobs, approximately 42% of which are filled by inward commuters.

- 2.58 The key characteristics of the local economy have changed markedly in recent years. The recession of the early 1990s left its mark on the district. The closure of the large manufacturing operations, such as Marconi, Murphy and Brooke Bond has, over recent years, resulted in a significant shift away from manufacturing industry and employment concentrated in large operations.

Demographic analysis

- 2.59 In analysing the need and demand for any new sport and recreation facilities it is important to assess the size and composition of the local leisure markets and the impact they will have upon facility usage. An analysis of the overall Census 2001 data reveals the following:

Table 2.3 – Demographic Analysis

Demographic Indicator	Impact on facility usage
The total district population is 129,005. This population has grown by 2.2% since the 1991 census	There is a large potential user base for leisure facilities within the district.
The proportion of people aged below 25 is below the national average, however there is a larger proportion of middle-aged people.	Young people have a high propensity to participate in sport and leisure activities.
Unemployment in the district is below the national average	People with large amounts of disposable income have the propensity to participate in sport and leisure
Only 14.8% of households do not have a car compared to 26.8% nationally and 42.8% of households have access to two or more cars	Although mobility is good within the district, there are a number of households who do not have access to a car and therefore good public transport links need to be maintained.
Only 30.7% of the population have no interest in sport compared to 35.4% nationally (see Appendix B).	The population of the district has a high propensity to participate, and it will therefore be important to ensure that facilities are able to cater for this high demand.

Population of Study Analysis Areas

- 2.60 The population of the analysis areas is based on 2001 census data using population statistics at output area level, the lowest level of detail of the census data. Each output area covers approximately 20 houses.
- 2.61 The population for the total district using this method was calculated at 128,850. This varies marginally from the overall district population calculated by Office of National Statistics. The populations of each analysis area are detailed in Table 2.4 overleaf.

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Table 2.4 Populations of Analysis Areas

Analysis Area	Population
Redbourn and surrounds	5,481
West Harpenden and surrounds	12,698
East Harpenden and Wheathampstead	21,794
Sandridge	11,186
Central	51,792
Colney Heath	5,518
London Colney	8,252
Park Street and St Stephens	12,129

- 2.62 As a result of changing ward and parish boundaries and the effect of the 2001 census, accurate local population projections for future years were not available.
- 2.63 Future projections have therefore been calculated, based on the 1998 mid year population estimates (developed for use in the 2000 Indices of Multiple Deprivation) and adjusted to take account of the initial 2001 census results.
- 2.64 These population projections predict that the population would have reached 134,500 by 2001 and there would be further growth, equivalent to approximately 5.2% over the period 2001 - 2013. In reality, the 2001 census accurately measured the 2001 population as closer to 129,000. In order to project future population more accurately, the 5.2% growth rate has therefore been applied to the accurate census output area based figures, as opposed to those figures predicted in the national projections.
- 2.65 Between the years of 1991 and 2001, population growth in the district was slower than predicted, potentially due to the closure of a number of mental health institutions, including Cell Barnes and Napsbury. It is therefore likely that these existing population figures are ambitious. For the purpose of the Playing Pitch Strategy, these figures will illustrate the demand for pitches if the population was to grow at this predicted rate. If growth is slower, demand for pitches will be reduced slightly. Population figures used for the purposes of this strategy are set out in table 2.5 below.

Table 2.5 Assumed Populations by analysis area

Analysis Area	2001 Population	2013 Population
Redbourn and surrounds	5,481	5,766
West Harpenden and surrounds	12,698	13,358
East Harpenden and Wheathampstead	21,794	22,927
Sandridge	11,186	11,767
Central	51,792	54,485
Colney Heath	5,518	5,805
London Colney	8,252	8,681
Park Street and St Stephens	12,129	12,759

Participation trends in key sports

- 2.66 Key national statistics, trends, issues and implications for future demand for playing pitches are outlined in Table 2.6.

Table 2.6 National trends in pitch sports

	Key facts	Key trends	Implication for pitches
Football	Out of school, football has experienced the largest growth in 'frequent' participation from 37% in 1994 to 43% in 1999	More children are playing due to popularity of mini soccer	More mini soccer sized pitches needed nationally
	2003 saw a 38% increase in female participation, with 85,000 girls and women playing in affiliated league and cup competitions.	More women are playing the game	Improved quality of ancillary facilities and in particular dedicated changing facilities required
	A 300-400% growth in informal five-a-side football at the expense of the traditional 11-a-side game	More mid-week fixtures, more non-grass pitches	Players defecting to five-a-side, therefore additional synthetic turf and indoor space may be required
	The FA forecast the number of youth players to increase by 10% over next 5 years	More pitches will be needed	The vast number of children playing mini-soccer will result in the need for more junior pitches in five years time
Cricket	Kwik cricket – a game devised for children is played by 1.1 million pupils in 90% of the country's primary schools – 434,000 of these are girls	Increased participation by young people	More pitches used for Kwik cricket and new mobile pitches introduced in schools
	The number of women's clubs increased from 4,200 in 1997 to 7,611 in 2001. A record 600,000 girls and women currently play cricket.	Increased participation by women	Improved access needed to quality training pitches and improved ancillary facilities in smaller clubs is required
	By 2005 there will be a 10% increase in the number of clubs with junior sections	Increased participation by youths	Well prepared and better maintained pitches required to increase potential carrying capacity
Rugby Union	The number of adult males playing rugby has decreased by 12% over last five years	Decline in the men's game is recognised but many initiatives are in place to increase opportunities and promote the sport	May require better quality pitches with ancillary facilities
	Women's participation has increased significantly in recent years - from approximately 2,000 players in 1988, to 8,000 by 1998	Increase in participation by women	Improved clubhouse facilities and increased access to pitches
	By the end of the 2003/2004 season there will be a 15% increase in the number of youths involved in non-contact rugby, i.e. touch or tag.	Junior participation on the rise, a phenomenon that can be partly attributed to the recent success of the national team.	More small sided pitches required

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	Key facts	Key trends	Implication for pitches
Hockey	Hockey is one of top five most popular games in school, although adult participation declined from 20% in 1994, to 17% in 1999 and the number of children citing it as enjoyable dropped from 13% to 10% over the same period	Slight decline in youth participation. Emphasis therefore is placed on promoting hockey towards young people to secure the future of the game. However, many clubs still do not have access to STPs	Continuing requirement for STPs and improved clubhouse facilities to meet league requirements and to encourage club/team formation.
	Participation figures for young people grew by 8,500 from 1996-2000	General growth although young people are targeted to secure the future of the sport	Localised demand for pitches.

- 2.67 Whilst the above provides a useful indication as to the changing nature of pitch sports, it must be acknowledged that trends vary across the country.

Playing pitch provision

Provision in England - A lack of reliable data

- 2.68 The Register of Recreational Land was undertaken in the early 1990s, however, the data collected has not been updated, and therefore it is an increasingly unreliable source and should be treated purely as historical data. There are no reliable national estimates of the total recreational land resource, nor the playing pitch component within it, although various local studies show a wide variation in levels of provision. Through merging the data extracted from the Register of Recreational Land (Sports Council), the *Playing Pitch Strategy* (1991)¹ suggests that:
- there are approximately 70,000 pitches in England
 - 50,000 of the pitches are adult/secondary school size
 - 20,000 are primary school size
 - they occupy approximately 90,000 hectares (220,000 acres) of land, or 28% of total open space provision.
- 2.69 There is, however, wide variation by locality, sport and ownership. Through collating previous local pitch strategies, the average population per pitch was 989, although this varied from 2,900 in the London Borough of Southwark to 700 in the London Borough of Bromley.
- 2.70 The *Playing Pitch Strategy* states that football accounts for around half of all adult size provision and cricket a quarter, with rugby and hockey sharing the balance. This reflects the relative popularity of these four sports.
- 2.71 With regards to ownership of pitches, around 40% of adult size pitches are in local authority control (leisure services and town/parish council), 30% in education authority control and 30% in private/voluntary sport clubs control. Despite the age of the data, the statistics tend to reflect the most recent pitch audit – the Register of English Football Facilities (REFF) which was commissioned by the Football Foundation and the Football Association in 2001 and completed in February 2002. Research for REFF revealed that there are 35,044 grass football pitches in England (21,640 adult, 8,418 junior, 4,986 mini). Work is still underway to update and improve the accuracy of the data contained.

¹ Published by the Sports Council, the NPFA and the CCPR.

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- 2.72 The key issues to arise from REFF for St Albans City and District are discussed later in this Section.

A lack of monitoring

- 2.73 With the exception of REFF, there are no other reliable data sources concerning the numbers of pitches in England. In addition, there is no nationally established system for monitoring change.
- 2.74 The exact number of pitches being lost to development or neglect is unknown and remains a contentious issue. The Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) has established a Playing Fields Monitoring Group, tasked with publishing some definitive data.
- 2.75 By virtue of statutory instrument made in 1996, Sport England is a statutory consultee on proposals for development that affect playing fields, land used as playing fields at any time in the last five years which remains undeveloped, or land which is identified for use as a playing field in a development plan. All applications that local planning authorities are minded to approve, but have attracted an objection from Sport England, will be referred to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) for consideration.
- 2.76 The local planning authority must notify Sport England when a relevant planning application is received. Data stored by Sport England on statutory consultations since 1999 reveals the increasing pressure that is being placed upon pitches throughout the country (Table 2.7 below).

Table 2.7 Statutory consultations with Sport England

Region	Number of consultations received		% difference +/-
	1999-2000	2000-2001	
South East	144	198	38%
West Midlands	107	174	63%
North West	95	132	39%
Yorkshire	102	99	-3%
East	38	93	145%
East Midlands	32	75	134%
South West	56	43	-23%
London	32	37	16%
North	40	36	-10%
England	646	887	37%

- 2.77 As shown in Table 2.7, Sport England was consulted on 37% more planning applications in 2001 than the previous year. The number of consultations rose again to 985 during 2001 - 2002. Sport England are now in the process of compiling detailed information regarding statutory consultations during 2002-2003.
- 2.78 The loss of playing pitches remains a real political issue for the government. Sport England, the NPFA and the CCPR have demonstrated their commitment to enhancing playing pitch provision by commissioning a review and updating of the 1991 Playing Pitch Strategy. The new document '*Towards a level playing field: A manual for the production of a playing pitch strategy*' has been produced by PMP and is now available to download from the Sport England website. The methodologies discussed in this document have formed the basis of this report.

SECTION TWO - THE CURRENT PICTURE

An Evolving Strategy for Football Facilities: Hertfordshire Local Football Partnership, 2002

- 2.79 County facility strategies were developed as part of REFF, the largest ever survey of football pitches and ancillary facilities in England. REFF was commissioned and funded by the Football Foundation, with the support of its funding partners the FA, FA Premier League, Sport England and the Department of Culture, Media and Sport.
- 2.80 The Hertfordshire LFP area covers the County of Hertfordshire including the following areas:
- Broxbourne
 - Dacorum
 - East Hertfordshire
 - Hertsmere
 - North Hertfordshire
 - St Albans
 - Stevenage
 - Three Rivers
 - Watford
 - Welwyn Hatfield.
- 2.81 Consultees indicated that the main facility gaps in Hertfordshire LFP are:
- the lack of mini pitches to meet the requirements of the expanded programme in schools, local authority courses and the FAs mini soccer scheme
 - the lack of high quality changing and social facilities
 - the need for more artificial and indoor facilities to meet the demand for training and playing when the use of grass pitches is not appropriate
 - the need for more floodlit grass pitches, to meet the demand for training and playing during the week.
- 2.82 The main barriers to participation were identified as:
- poor and inadequate facilities, primarily poor quality of changing and ancillary accommodation, which was felt to discourage certain groups and individuals from taking part
 - furthermore, the lack of suitable changing accommodation for females was also flagged as a problem area that is felt to discourage the growth of female football in general
 - the poor quality of pitch surfaces and drainage. This varies throughout the area but can cause serious problems in the winter months. Pitches become waterlogged, and games get postponed which leads to a backlog of fixtures.
 - the lack of artificial pitches available for training, which would reduce the strain on grass pitches
 - local authorities raised concerns over long-term maintenance of their facilities

SECTION TWO - THE CURRENT PICTURE

- community use of school pitches. Whilst it has been established that many Hertfordshire schools offer use of their pitches to outside teams, there are still issues to be addressed in terms of promoting better levels of 'community use'. Many schools do not wish to allow public use of their pitches simply because they feel that they are already overused in school hours via curriculum activity.
- reduce strain at key usage times. In those areas where lack of available pitches is a problem could clubs/leagues perhaps be encouraged to spread playing time more evenly across the weekend?

2.83 The following were identified as priority areas for development:

- significant improvements to poor (or non-existent) changing facilities/clubhouse facilities
- enhanced drainage of pitches
- better floodlighting of some pitches.

Implications of the national, regional and local context for playing pitch provision in St Albans City and District
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- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the importance of meeting wider national policy objectives, particularly:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- provision of opportunities for identified target groups- promoting the health related benefits of sport and leisure activities- increasing mass participation levels.• the need for more reliable facilities data at a national and local level• linking in with priority sports for the district in particular rugby and cricket• the importance of closely reflecting National Governing Body of Sport priorities• the need to ensure that sports development priorities and facility development are closely linked• the need to increase community use of school facilities• the need to enhance ancillary facilities e.g. changing and floodlighting. |
|---|

SECTION 3
THE PROCESS

Methodology for assessing supply and demand

Previous approaches to identifying need

- 3.1 The first attempt to establish a standard of provision for public open space and playing fields was made by the NPFA in 1925 and has been subsequently refined on a number of occasions. It is known as the '**Six Acre Standard**'. A brief explanation of the six acre standard, its limitations and an application of the six acre standard for St Albans District Council can be found in Appendix A.
- 3.2 Calculations examining the overall area (hectares) of pitches in St Albans can also be found in Appendix A.

The Playing Pitch Methodology (PPM)

- 3.3 The 1991 Playing Pitch Strategy moved away from a standards approach, instead examining the number and characteristics of teams demanding facilities and pitches available to meet that demand. Since the original methodology was produced, there have been changes and developments, particularly relating to trends in participation within the pitch sports, sports development initiatives and the general understanding, appreciation and perception of land in playing field use and its relation to other land uses.
- 3.4 Therefore, the process follows the methodology outlined in '*Towards A Level Playing Field: A Manual For The Production Of A Playing Pitch Strategy*' document launched in Spring 2003. This revised methodology was produced by PMP following widespread consultation on the 1991 methodology, in conjunction with a steering group comprising representatives from the Central Council of Physical Recreation, Local Government Association, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, Loughborough University and Sport England.
- 3.5 The aim of the Playing Pitch Methodology (PPM) is to determine the number of pitches required for each activity based on demand in an actual or predicted set of circumstances. The essential difference between the methodology and previous approaches based on standards is that, instead of using land area per head of population as the basic unit, it measures demand (at peak times) in terms of teams requiring pitches and then compares this with the pitches available, thus enabling a tangible measure of the adequacy of existing supply.
- 3.6 The particular advantage of this methodology is that it is related precisely to the local situation and the very task of collating and analysing the information highlights problems and issues from which policy options and solutions can be explored.
- 3.7 The revised methodology incorporates:
- a more holistic view of pitch provision as one element of open space
 - the concept of 'team equivalents' and 'match equivalents' to reflect the requirements of the small-sided games
 - the refinement of team generation rates
 - the revised definition of a pitch
 - the refined quantitative audits of pitches by the use of multiplication factors for:
 - availability / accessibility
 - quality (to include the importance of ancillary provision at pitch sites as well as pitches themselves)
 - carrying capacity.

SECTION THREE - THE PROCESS

- 3.8 In line with this revised methodology, this Playing Pitch Strategy focuses on pitch provision for football, rugby union, rugby league, hockey, and cricket. No community use pitches for lacrosse or baseball were found. It also considers the role that synthetic turf pitches (STPs) can play in meeting the needs of residents of the area. We have further subdivided the analysis of some sports to deal with specific sub-sectors of activity within them, e.g. junior play or adult play, in order that important aspects are not submerged in aggregated data. Football and rugby have been subdivided in this manner, whereas no differentiation has been made between junior and senior cricket and junior and senior hockey teams as they play on pitches of similar dimensions.
- 3.9 The PPM comprises eight stages. Stages 1 to 6 involve numerical calculations, whilst Stages 7 and 8 develop issues and solutions. The methodology is employed to analyse the adequacy of current provision and to assess possible future situations, in order that latent and future demand (identified through Team Generation Rates), and the problems with quality, use and capacity of existing pitches can be taken into account.
- 3.10 PPM calculations take into account only those pitches that are secured for community use, in line with Sport England guidance. The effect that mini teams will have on provision is not considered, although this will be taken into account later in the document, under the heading of 'Carrying capacity – the local scenario'.

Our approach

- 3.11 The success of the methodology outlined above depends largely on obtaining as accurate information as possible of the number of teams and pitches within the district. To achieve this, a full audit of pitches, users and providers within the district's boundary was conducted. Questionnaires (which can be found in Appendix C) were sent to:
- all known cricket, rugby union, rugby league and hockey clubs based within (or close to) the district boundaries (identified in governing body and county association handbooks, league handbooks, pitch booking records, websites, local press, telephone directories, or local knowledge). No lacrosse, softball or baseball teams were identified within the district.
 - all known schools and colleges within the district.
- 3.12 Football clubs were identified using the same sources, and questionnaires to football clubs were distributed via a league secretary / Council pitch bookings officer where appropriate. All other football clubs received a postal questionnaire.
- 3.13 Table 3.1 overleaf summarises the response rates. It was of paramount importance that a 100% response rate was received from providers of playing pitches. For this reason, all non-responding schools and colleges were contacted by telephone. However, a 100% response rate was not needed from clubs. This is because club information was sourced from league handbooks, local knowledge and interviews with league secretaries. The purpose of the club surveys was to cross-check information and gather qualitative information (i.e. comments) from clubs. To increase response rates, a reminder card was sent a week before the original posting deadline. Telephone interviews were conducted with all contactable non-responding clubs in order to gather the outstanding quantitative information and ensure that no clubs were omitted.

SECTION THREE - THE PROCESS

Table 3.1 Consultation audit response rates

	Questionnaires sent	Questionnaires returned	Successful Telephone interviews	% data received
Sport Clubs				
Association Football	105	33	58	86%
Cricket	24	6	16	90%
Rugby	8	2	4	80%
Hockey	4	1	3	100%
<i>Sports Club Total</i>	141	42	81	87%
Schools/ Colleges				
Primary	50	5	45	100%
Secondary / Colleges	20	7	13	100%
Special Schools	3	0	3	100%
<i>Schools Total</i>	73	12	61	100%
TOTAL	214	54	142	91.6%

Essential data for clubs who did not respond was obtained from Council Officers, Governing Bodies and league secretaries

- 3.14 The postal questionnaire response rate was slightly higher than the accepted average (25% is considered a 'good' response) and this was supplemented with a large number of additional telephone interviews and site visits to achieve a 91.6% response rate.
- 3.15 The response rate from schools was very poor and only 12 questionnaires were returned, three of which were from schools that had no pitches. All other schools were subsequently telephoned in order to ascertain the number of pitches that they have on site.
- 3.16 Overall, the response from sports clubs was good, although it was disappointing that more football clubs did not return the questionnaire, as they were actively encouraged to by their league secretary.
- 3.17 An assessment of the data obtained from the above research and consultation is detailed in Section 4.

SECTION 4

SUPPLY AND DEMAND

Supply and demand

Introduction

- 4.1 This Section outlines the current situation in St Albans City and District in terms of pitch provision for, and demand from, football, cricket, rugby and hockey clubs. The overall supply is analysed, taking into consideration:

- overall pitch stock
- community pitches
- location of pitches
- site visits
- club consultation.

Supply: playing pitch provision in St Albans

Pitch stock

- 4.2 Overall, the research methods outlined in Section 3 identified **268 playing pitches in the district**. This figure includes all known public, private, school and other pitches whether or not they are in secured public use. The full audit of pitches can be seen in Appendix D. They comprise:

- 101 adult football pitches
- 47 junior football pitches
- 31 mini soccer pitches
- 34 cricket pitches
- 27 adult rugby pitches
- 6 junior rugby pitches
- 17 grass hockey pitches
- 2 lacrosse pitches
- 3 full sized STPs (including one football turf pitch).

- 4.3 Of these pitches, 179 (67%) are full-size adult football, cricket, rugby and hockey pitches. This equates to circa one pitch for every 557 adults in the district (for the purposes of this strategy, it has been assumed that the adult population of the City and District is 99,703). This ratio is better than the national average in 1991 (Source: The 1991 Playing Pitch Strategy) and compares favourably to the majority of other authorities for which informal data is currently available (from PMP's database) as shown in Table 4.1 overleaf.

SECTION FOUR - SUPPLY AND DEMAND

Table 4.1 Ratio of adult pitches per 1000 adults

Local Authority	Ratio (Pitches: adults)
Kennett District Council	1: 365
St Albans City and District Council	1:557
South Somerset District Council	1:608
Colchester Borough Council	1:655
North Wiltshire District Council	1: 804
Derwentside District Council	1:815
Swindon Borough Council	1:926
Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council	1:968
England	1: 989
Northamptonshire County	1: 1,015
St Helens Borough Council	1: 1,050
Portsmouth City Council	1: 1,100

- 4.4 The local ratio for specific sports in comparison to the estimated national averages is shown in Table 4.2 below. Again this clearly illustrates that in comparison with national figures St Albans appears relatively well provided for in terms of quantity of playing pitches.

Table 4.2 Ratio of adult pitches to adults, by sport

Sport	St Albans (pitches: adults)	England ¹ (pitches: adults)
Football	1: 989	1: 1,840
Cricket	1: 2,936	1: 4,243
Rugby	1: 3,697	1: 8,968

¹ = data extracted from The Playing Pitch Strategy (1991)

Community pitches

- 4.5 In line with 'Towards a level playing field: A manual for the production of a playing pitch strategy' (Sport England, CCPR and the NPFA 2003), our definition of 'community pitches' is those pitches with 'secured community use', recognising that this has a considerable bearing upon the value of facilities both individually and collectively to the community at large.
- 4.6 In practice this definition embraces:
- pitches which are in local authority management or other public ownership or management
 - any facilities owned, used or maintained by clubs/private individuals which as a matter of policy or practice are available for use by large sections of the public through membership of a club or admission fee. In either case the 'cost of use' must be reasonable and affordable for the majority of the community.
 - pitches at education sites which are available for use by the public through formal community use arrangements
 - any other institutional facilities which are available to the public as a result of formal dual/community agreements.

SECTION FOUR - SUPPLY AND DEMAND

- 4.7 In line with 'Towards A Level Playing Field' pitches at educational establishments are only considered to be 'secured' for community use if one or more of the following is applicable:
- there is a formal community use agreement in place
 - there is a leasing management arrangement between the Council and the school requiring the pitch to be available to community teams
 - a policy of community use minuted by the school, including the provision of a tariff of charges
 - minutes of the board of school governors allowing use of pitches by community teams
 - written commitment from the school and,
 - where it is the proved intention of the school to maintain access for community teams to its pitch(es) at peak times for the next two or more years.
- 4.8 There are a large number of educational establishments within the district that currently allow community teams to use their pitches. Although many of these schools indicate that they have a formal agreement with these teams, only Francis Bacon School is an official dual use site. In addition, school sites within the district do not offer the same opportunities as other pitches, many do not offer changing facilities, and additionally, pitch hire is frequently subject to school holidays. School sites that offer community use are discussed further in Section 6.
- 4.9 Of the 268 pitches identified, **128 (48%) are secured for the local community**. As demonstrated in Table 4.3 below, 48% is relatively low in comparison to some other authorities. This does not take into account schools that offer community use without official secured agreements although many have informal written agreements.

Table 4.3 Percentage of secured community pitches in other Local Authorities

Local Authority	% of pitches secured for community use
Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council	44%
Derwentside District Council	47%
St Albans City and District Council	48%
Swindon Borough Council	55%
Mid Devon District Council	57%
Maidstone Borough Council	61%
Worcestershire County	66%
South Somerset District Council	69%

- 4.10 The 128 secured community pitches comprise:
- 66 adult football pitches
 - 13 junior football pitches
 - 17 mini-soccer pitches
 - 15 cricket pitches
 - 14 adult rugby pitches
 - 0 junior rugby pitches
 - 2 adult grass hockey pitches
 - 1 synthetic turf pitch.

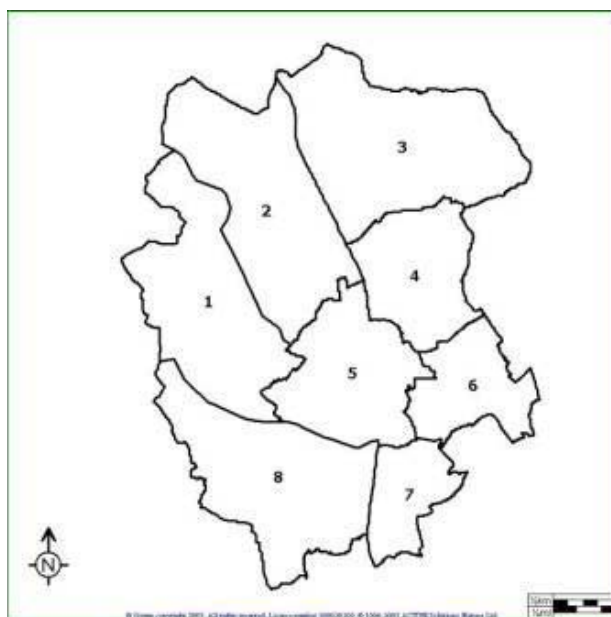
SECTION FOUR - SUPPLY AND DEMAND

- 4.11 The full breakdown of the ownership of these pitches can be seen in Appendix D, and is discussed in Tables 4.5 and 4.6. As discussed earlier, additional school sites are currently used by community teams on an ad hoc or informal basis and are therefore considered to be 'unsecured' – many schools within the district stated that their pitches could be used for community use, irrespective of whether community teams currently use them or not. This issue will be covered in detail in Section 6.
- 4.12 St Albans City and District Council pitches are not rented out for training purposes, as this reduces the capacity of pitches to sustain competitive matches, and requires increased midweek maintenance. Teams have been found to exploit these rules and unauthorised use of pitches is an occasional problem. Prior to the commencement of the season, each team is permitted to use their home pitch to host one or two friendly matches. This acts as a warm up/training for the season. As a result of insufficient pitch provision and capacity, during the season, any team wishing to train must find alternative venues to those owned by the Council.
- 4.13 There are three synthetic turf pitches within the district. The first, at Clarence Park is used primarily by St Albans Hockey Club, although it is available for school use during the day. A new pitch at the Old Albanians Site, is currently used primarily for tennis and is not available for other community use.
- 4.14 In addition, a synthetic turf pitch has recently been built at Oaklands Lane, Harvesters FC and was opened in October 2003. Although primarily for the use of the football club, there will be a degree of community use at this site and it is earmarked for use by other sports in addition to football. This facility will be unsuitable for competitive hockey.
- 4.15 For the purposes of this analysis, as a result of the limited community use at both the Harvesters and Old Albanians sites, only the pitch at Clarence Park is considered to be available for community use and will be included in the PPM calculations.

Location of pitches

- 4.16 The location of the existing pitches in the district has been examined by using the analysis areas defined in Section 2. For reference purposes, these areas are illustrated in map 4.1 below.

Map 4.1 – Analysis Areas in St Albans



Sub Area	Name
1	Redbourn and surrounds
2	West Harpenden and surrounds
3	East Harpenden and Wheathampstead
4	Sandridge
5	Central
6	Colney Heath
7	London Colney
8	Park Street and St Stephens

SECTION FOUR - SUPPLY AND DEMAND

- 4.17 Table 4.4 illustrates the total area of playing pitches available for community use by catchment (excluding the three synthetic pitches).

Table 4.4 Total area of secured pitches by sub area catchment in 2003/04

Analysis Area	Total playing pitches	Total playing pitches (ha.)
Redbourn and surrounds	11	6.2
West Harpenden and surrounds	29	27.7
East Harpenden and Wheathampstead	8	5.9
Sandridge	4	3.7
Central	42	38.6
Colney Heath	8	6.4
London Colney	16	11.7
Park Street and St Stephens	10	8.2
TOTAL	128	108.4

- 4.18 As can be seen in Table 4.4 above, the largest area of playing pitches available to the community is found in the central area (analysis area 5).
- 4.19 27.7 hectares of pitches are available in West Harpenden and surrounds (Area 2). This is the largest amount of playing fields outside the central area. As a result of the division of the district into analysis areas, this area includes the William Bird Playing Fields, which fall right on the edge of this area. It is known that many teams from St Albans City travel to play at this site.
- 4.20 All areas contain at least one pitch. The smallest amount of provision (in terms of hectares) is found in Area 4 – Sandridge. There is only one site within this area – Spencer Recreation Ground. All other areas except Sandridge contain a minimum of five hectares of playing pitches.
- 4.21 The breakdown of community use pitches by type and ownership is illustrated in Tables 4.5 and 4.6 below.

Table 4.5 Community pitches by type

Analysis Area	Adult Football Pitches	Junior Football Pitches	Mini Football	Cricket Pitches	Adult Rugby Pitches	Junior Rugby Pitches	Adult Grass Hockey Pitches	Junior Grass Hockey Pitches	Synthetic Turf Pitches
Redbourn and surrounds	3	2	5	1	0	0	0	0	0
West Harpenden and surrounds	17	4	0	4	4	0	0	0	0
East Harpenden and Wheathampstead	4	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Sandridge	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Central	24	2	2	6	5	0	2	0	1
Colney Heath	4	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0
London Colney	7	2	4	0	3	0	0	0	0
Park Street and St Stephens	5	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	66	13	17	15	14	0	2	0	1

SECTION FOUR - SUPPLY AND DEMAND

Ownership

4.22 Table 4.6 summarise the ownership of community playing pitches in the district.

Table 4.6 Ownership of playing pitches with secured *community use* in St Albans City and District

Ownership	Adult football	Junior football	Mini soccer	Cricket	Adult Rugby	Junior rugby	Lacrosse	Grass Hockey	Synthetic Turf Pitch	TOTAL
St Albans City and District Council	35	7	4	7	0	0	0	2	1	56
Hertfordshire County Council	5	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	9
Independent educational provision	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Parish /Town Council /Trust provision	20	5	9	5	0	0	0	0	0	39
Voluntary sector provision	6	0	2	2	14	0	0	0	0	24
TOTAL	66	13	17	15	14	0	0	2	1	128

4.23 The key points arising from Table 4.6 above regarding the ownership of pitches are:

- the largest provider of pitches available for community use is the City and District Council, owning 56 pitches. This equates to 44% of all community use pitches. Several clubs lease their own pitches from the Council. This arrangement entitles them to exclusive use of the pitch. Teams who currently lease pitches from the Council include Harpenden Town FC, St Albans City FC and London Colney FC. All Council pitches are secured for community use.
- only nine pitches on education sites are formally secured for public use – just 7% of the total number of LEA owned pitches. No pitches at independent schools are considered to be formally secured for use by the community at present.
- in terms of pitches available for community use, Parish/Town Councils are the second largest provider within the district with 37 pitches (equating to 28% of all community use pitches) of which 18 are adult football pitches. Colney Heath FC and Harpenden Rovers FC lease pitches from Colney Heath Parish Council and Harpenden Town Council respectively.
- there are playing fields trusts running pitches in both Redbourn and Sandridge, and the Harperbury Hospital site is also owned by a Trust. There are an additional four pitches at this site situated just over the border in Hertsmere.
- the voluntary sector play an important role in pitch provision in St Albans, with several clubs providing pitches. This supply is predominantly focussed on adult rugby pitches with the voluntary sector forming the only provider within the district. There are no junior rugby pitches with secured community use within the district.

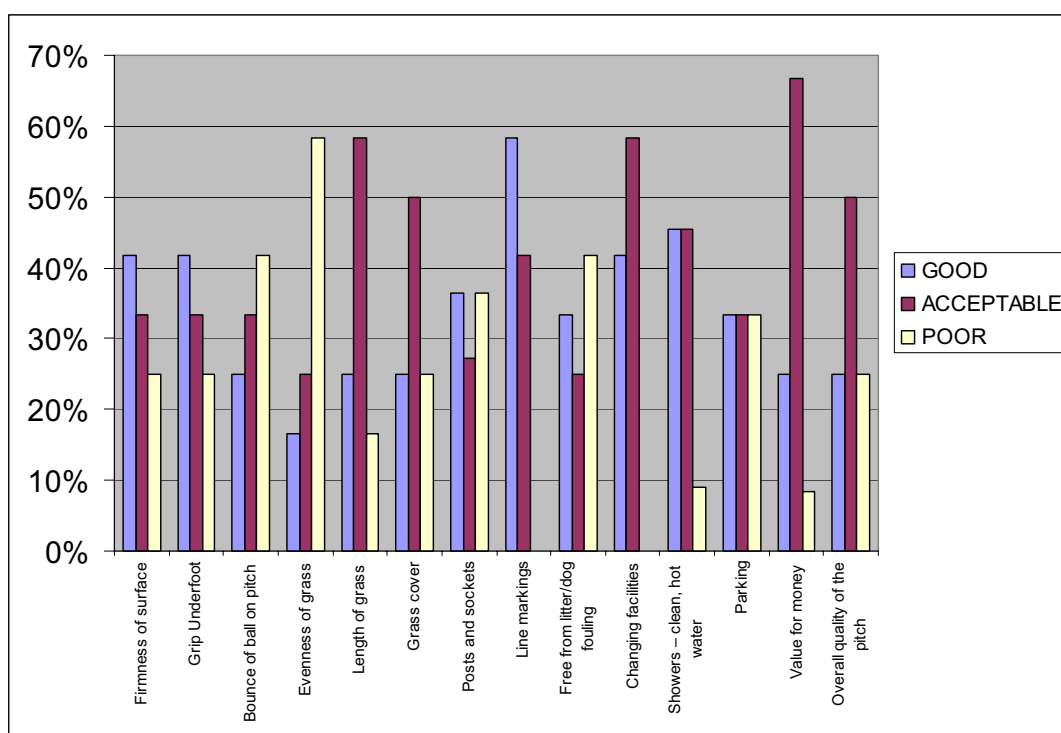
SECTION FOUR - SUPPLY AND DEMAND

Quality of pitch and ancillary facilities

User feedback

- 4.24 As stated in the *Playing Pitch Strategy*, pitch quality is a key issue. Perceived quality of pitches (and ancillary facilities) is almost as important as actual quality as it can heavily influence the pattern of play. Perceived quality of pitches was looked at primarily from a user perspective.
- 4.25 All sports clubs playing on pitches in the district were asked about their perceptions of pitch quality by postal questionnaire. As described in Section 3, clubs which failed to respond to the questionnaire were telephoned and asked only for basic quantitative information. Comments and figures discussed below and overleaf are therefore based on questionnaire returns only. This analysis should inform future discussions on pitch improvements, but should be treated as a starting point only.
- 4.26 Although the overall response rate from cricket clubs was poor (only one club answered this question), it is possible to gain a relatively detailed insight into the perceived quality of football pitches. It is possible that responses from cricket clubs were low as a result of the timing of the survey – this was sent out during the winter season when cricket clubs are not playing. Graph 4.1 illustrates the perceived quality of football pitches in St Albans City and District:

Graph 4.1 Perceived Quality of Football Pitches in St Albans City and District



- 4.27 The key issues arising from Graph 4.1 above include:
- 34% of the responses relating to the quality features highlighted in graph 4.1 indicated that quality of pitches was good
 - 58% of respondents indicated that line markings were good, and no one considered these to be poor

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- 45% of all respondents rated the provision of showers to be good and comments on changing facilities were also very positive, with no club perceiving them to be poor
 - the firmness of the surface and grip underfoot were also praised by respondents
 - the evenness of pitches was the area felt to be most in need of improvement, with 58% rating this poor. Litter and dog fouling was also identified as problematic
 - overall, 75% of football clubs perceived the overall quality of the pitch as average or better.
- 4.28 Only two rugby clubs responded to this section of the survey. These clubs rated most elements as good. The firmness of surface, length of grass and grass cover were the only areas rated as poor by rugby clubs.
- 4.29 Clubs were asked to comment on the best and worst pitches they had experienced over the course of the season. Football pitches within the district which were frequently criticised in questionnaire responses included:
- William Bird
 - Westminster Lodge
 - Colney Heath
 - Rothamsted Park
 - Cunningham Hill.
- 4.30 Pitches in Wheathampstead, Morris Way Playing Fields, Woollam Playing Fields and Francis Bacon School were commended by clubs. While Harpenden Cricket Club and Clarence Park were identified as good cricket sites, Rothamsted Park (Orchard Avenue) was considered to be poor for cricket.

Site visits – an overview

- 4.31 In addition to the above, the quality of pitches in St Albans City and District was ascertained through site visits, which were undertaken. An assessment matrix (Appendix E) was used to assess the overall site and the quality of the pitches and ancillary facilities where available.
- 4.32 The main community use sites (29 were specifically assessed for the PPS) throughout the district were assessed, including all sites maintained by the Council. This included 7 private/leased clubs. As a result of the time of year that site visits took place, assessments of cricket pitches were largely inappropriate, as pitches were not marked out, and wickets were under preparation and therefore unsuitable for assessment.
- 4.33 The key issues emerging from site visits are highlighted below. Site specific improvements will be covered in Section 6:
- local authority pitches appear to be well maintained - grass was cut, markings clear and equipment, where provided, was in good condition. Arrangements had been made, where required, for clubs to put up their own nets. In general, teams are required to put up their own nets as a result of vandalism and damage to previous facilities. These sites are Park Street Recreation Ground, Cunningham Hill, Foxcroft, Cotlandswick, Harpenden Rovers FC, Folly Fields, Marford Playing Fields and Pioneer Youth Club.
 - although almost all football sites exhibited evidence of vandalism, even the leased sites, there was no vandalism at rugby sites. Although Greenwood Park is

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surrounded by CCTV cameras, there was still a small amount of vandalism evident. There was serious vandalism at Marlborough Pavilion where remains of a car were found on the roof, Cunningham Hill (the pavilion is covered in graffiti) and Park Street. There was also evidence of vandalism of new nets at both Verulamium Park and Rothamsted Park.

- litter and dog fouling is a problem at all sites which are not fenced in. Private/leased facilities are surrounded by low fences and dog fouling is therefore more limited. There was large amounts of litter on the enclosed pitch at William Bird Recreation Ground.
- changing facilities at some sites are relatively poor and in need of improvement, and some local authority sites lacked changing facilities, or appropriate changing facilities, making them unsuitable for league matches. There are no changing facilities at Foxcroft or Cotlandswick (except for the enclosed pitch leased by London Colney FC). Additionally, changing at Verulamium Park (St Michaels End), Rothamsted Park, Folly Fields and Park Street are relatively poor.
- the demand for separate female changing facilities means that, as a result of shared shower rooms, there are no sites which are suitable for female competition when male competition is booked on adjacent pitches. Increasingly, the requirement to separate juniors from adults generates further difficulties for the allocation of pitches, and there are no sites with dedicated youth changing facilities, or sufficient segregated changing rooms to accommodate children's and men's football simultaneously.
- drainage of pitches appears to be the main issue affecting quality. Drainage appears to be a problem at the majority of football sites, and with the exception of Woollam Playing Fields, there are few sites with adequate drainage systems installed. Pitches at William Bird Recreation Ground and Rothamsted Park showed evidence of waterlogging at the time of site visits.
- the gradient of many pitches makes high level play difficult – for example, at Rothamsted Park, Greenwood Park, Cotlandswick, Park Street and Verulamium Park. In addition, many pitches have a relatively uneven surface, making playing conditions potentially dangerous. Pitches at Pioneer Youth Club, Park Street, Marlborough Club, Harpenden Rovers FC are particularly uneven. On the whole, rugby clubs were considered to have good slopes and level pitches. The pitches at Woollam Playing Fields are particularly even and flat.
- private or leased facilities, which tend to be fenced in and secured, were overall of a good standard. Woollam Playing Fields and Harvesters Football Club were of a particularly high standard.

Match cancellations

- 4.34 Records regarding match cancellations have been obtained for eight District Council owned sites. Cancellations for three years have been assessed below:
- 4.35 During the period 2001 – 2003, there was a total of 751 cancellations. 47% of these cancellations were caused by waterlogged pitches at William Bird Playing Fields. Cancellations have decreased on this site from 96 games on Sundays in 2001, to 22 games on Sundays in 2003. It is likely that this improvement has occurred as a result of a reduction in the number of games programmed on this site each week allowing the pitches time for rest and recovery.
- 4.36 Table 4.7 overleaf illustrates the proportion of games cancelled at each monitored pitch.

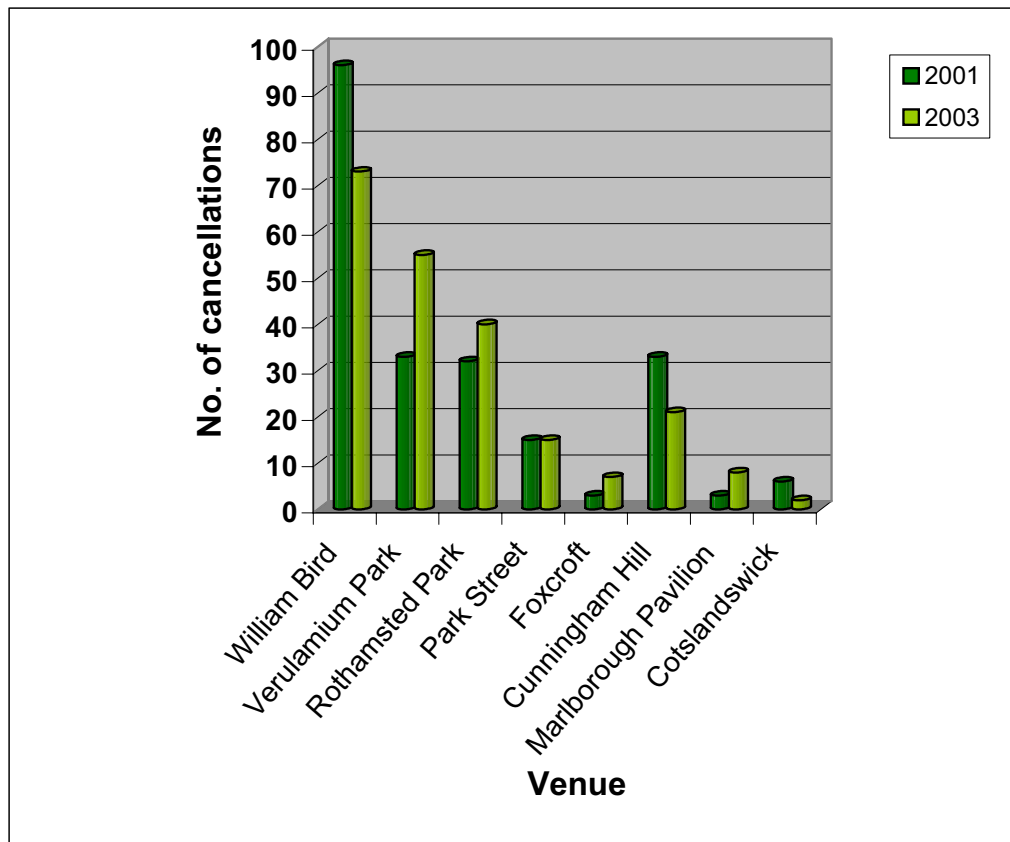
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Table 4.7 Pitch Cancellations 2001 – 2003

PITCH NAME	2001 Saturdays	2001 Sundays	2002 Saturdays	2002 Sundays	2003 Saturdays	2003 Sundays
William Bird	12 dates (49 games)	14 dates (96 games)	8 dates (26 games)	8 dates (49 games)	8 dates (22 games)	10 dates (73 games)
Verulamium Park	5 dates (13 games)	5 dates (33 games)	5 dates (13 games)	5 dates (35 games)	4 dates (13 games)	7 dates (55 games)
Rothamsted Park	3 dates (6 games)	8 dates (32 games)	2 dates (2 games)	6 dates (30 games)	1 date (1 game)	9 dates (40 games)
Park Street	6 dates (6 games)	7 dates (15 games)	4 dates (4 games)	4 dates (8 games)	4 dates (4 games)	8 dates (15 games)
	2000 – 2001		2001 - 2002		2002 - 2003	
Foxcroft	3 dates (3 games)		5 dates (5 games)		7 dates (7 games)	
Cunningham Hill	11 dates (33 games)		5 dates (15 games)		7 dates (21 games)	
Marlborough Club	3 dates (3 games) (before junior pitch put in)		5 dates (5 games) (before junior pitch put in)		8 dates (8 games) (before junior pitch put in)	
Cotlandswick	6 dates (6 games) (when used every Saturday)		3 dates (3 games)		2 dates (2 games)	

- 4.37 Between 2001 and 2003, the number of cancellations of games at Foxcroft, Marlborough Pavilion, Park Street, Verulamium Park and Rothamsted Park have all increased.
- 4.38 Only William Bird Playing Fields, Cotlandswick and Cunningham Hill have seen reductions in the number of games called off.
- 4.39 Last season play was cancelled on 9 separate occasions (resulting in 40 games being cancelled at Rothamsted Park).
- 4.40 Graph 4.2 illustrates cancellations on Sundays for the years 2001 and 2003.

Graph 4.2 Sunday Pitch Cancellations 2001 & 2003



Demand: pitch sport clubs in St Albans City and District

- 4.41 Table 4.8 below illustrates the number of football, cricket, hockey, rugby league and rugby union teams playing on pitches in St Albans City and District. These include adult, junior and mini teams. Key facts and figures for each sport are summarised after Table 4.9. The full list can be found in Appendix F.

Table 4.8 Sports clubs using playing pitches in St Albans City and District

	Football	Cricket	Rugby Union	Rugby League	Hockey	TOTAL
Total number of clubs	97	20	4	2	1	124
Total number of teams	278	76	44	6	25	429
Number of adult teams	121	51	23	3	15	213
Number of junior teams	113	22	15	3	10	163
Number of mini-teams	44	3	6	0	0	53

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- 4.42 The revised playing pitch methodology, *Towards A Level Playing Field*, assumes that clubs are based in the analysis area where they play their home matches and does not take into consideration where players live or where they would prefer to play their matches. A summary of the spread of teams in the district can be found in Table 4.9. Most teams that responded to the questionnaire indicated that they were happy with the location of their home pitch.

Table 4.9 The Spread of Teams across St Albans

Analysis Area	Adult Male Football	Adult Female Football	Junior Boys Football	Junior Girls Football	Mini Football	Adult Cricket	Female Adult Cricket	Male Junior Cricket	Female Junior Cricket	Mini Cricket	Male Adult Rugby	Female Adult Rugby	Male Junior Rugby	Female Junior Rugby	Mini Rugby	Male Adult Hockey	Female Adult Hockey	Male Junior Hockey	Female Junior Hockey	TOTAL
Redbourn and surrounds	4	1	21	1	19	5	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	55
West Harpenden and surrounds	29	1	4	0	0	15	0	7	0	3	5	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	73
East Harpenden and Wheathampstead	4	0	13	1	0	4	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24
Sandridge	2	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
Central	53	0	7	0	0	12	0	7	0	0	8	2	8	1	6	9	6	5	5	129
Colney Heath	7	0	35	3	12	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	63
London Colney	11	0	22	3	13	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	54
Park Street and St Stephens	9	0	3	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23
TOTAL	119	2	105	8	44	50	1	22	0	3	22	4	17	1	6	9	6	5	5	429

Football

- 4.43 Table 4.9 shows that 65% of teams in the district are football teams, and the split between adult and junior football teams is relatively even (56% of teams are junior or mini teams).
- 4.44 The most popular sport, football, is played in all areas of the district. As Table 4.9 illustrates, over 25% of teams play their matches within the central area (Area 5) of St Albans. The largest pitch site in the district, Verulamium Park, is based within this area. There is also a concentration of teams in Area 2 (West Harpenden and surrounds). William Bird Playing Fields fall just on the edge of this area.
- 4.45 Teams playing for St Albans Rangers have been included, although some of the pitches which they play on at the Harperbury Hospital site fall into Hertsmere. They have been included within the analysis as part of the site on which they play is located within the district.

Cricket

- 4.46 There are 76 cricket teams, over two thirds of which are adult cricket teams. London Colney Cricket Club use a facility which falls just outside the district boundary in Shenley, although there is potential for this club to move back inside the district in the future, if a new cricket facility is provided as part of the Napsbury Development. They are therefore excluded from this analysis as they play outside the district.

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- 4.47 Of the eight teams that are based within Area 4, (Sandridge), six are cricket teams and all play their matches at the Spencer Recreation Ground site. There are no cricket teams playing in either London Colney or Colney Heath (Areas 6 and 7).

Rugby

- 4.48 In total, there are 50 rugby teams, just six of which play rugby league. Although rugby league and rugby union teams are illustrated separately in Table 4.8, they will be counted together for the purposes of the playing pitch methodology, as the teams use the same pitches to play on. However it should be noted that it is not necessarily preferable for the two codes to use the same pitches. There are six mini rugby league teams which do not play competitive games.
- 4.49 Table 4.9 illustrates that rugby is only played in four of the eight wards and again the central area of St Albans (Area 5) is home to the majority of teams, 68% in total.

Hockey

- 4.50 Although there is only one hockey club playing **within** the district, there are 25 teams run by this club, 60% of which are adult teams. St Albans Hockey Club is the only club playing inside district boundaries, and they use the synthetic turf pitch at Clarence Park. Three other hockey clubs (Harpenden Mens, Harpenden Ladies, Rothamsted Hockey Club) travel outside the district to play their competitive matches at facilities in Hatfield and Luton despite the fact that most of their players reside within St Albans City and District. All three of these clubs expressed their desire to play home matches within St Albans City and District, however there is perceived to be a shortage of suitable facilities at present.
- 4.51 Table 4.9 highlights the increasing participation in pitch sports by women and girls. Overall, 29 teams based in the district are women or girls teams. This places increasing pressure on the current pitch stock as a result of the varying requirements for male and female sport. This issue will be discussed further in later analysis.
- 4.52 The following is a summary of key findings for each sport based on questionnaire returns and consultation.

Football Clubs in St Albans City and District – an overview

Membership

- St Albans is home to 121 Adult Football teams, and 113 junior teams.
- there are several large junior clubs catering for both mini and junior football including St Albans Rangers, Harpenden Colts, Wheathampstead Wanderers, Harvesters FC and London Colney Colts and Cougars
- St Albans City Youth FC have grown steadily over the years and they are now a well-established club with over 300 players registered in both male and female teams with an age range of 8 - 18 years. They have recently been awarded a Football Foundation Grant to develop their base at Highfield Park. This follows the successful development at Oaklands Lane, home of Harvesters Football Club, consisting of a new synthetic turf pitch with mini pitches.
- whilst the majority of clubs are for male members, there are currently eight female junior teams and two women's senior teams in the district and girls' football is becoming increasingly popular. There is currently a lack of facilities for girls and women's football in the district which may start to inhibit the growth and future development of women's football.

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- the popularity of mini football is also increasing rapidly, and many of the junior clubs are now running mini teams, or coordinating training for young players. Harpenden Colts have a particularly large mini football section.
- 62% of football clubs responding to the questionnaire have experienced growth in their membership over recent years, and only 1 club indicated that their membership has decreased over the last few years. Although membership of many of the clubs has increased, there has been a small decline in the number of teams, particularly adult football, participating in the leagues.

Standard of play

- the majority of adult football teams participate in one or more of the three main leagues in the district – The Mid Hertfordshire Football League, The Observer Review Sunday Football League and the Verulamium and District League. St Albans City Football Club play the highest standard of football within the district – they participate in the Nationwide Conference South.
- youth teams participate in a variety of leagues and cups, including the Watford Friendly League, Chiltern Youth League and the County Cup
- St Albans Rangers FC, London Colney Colts & Cougars, Harvesters FC, St Albans City Youth FC have all gained the charter standard club award.

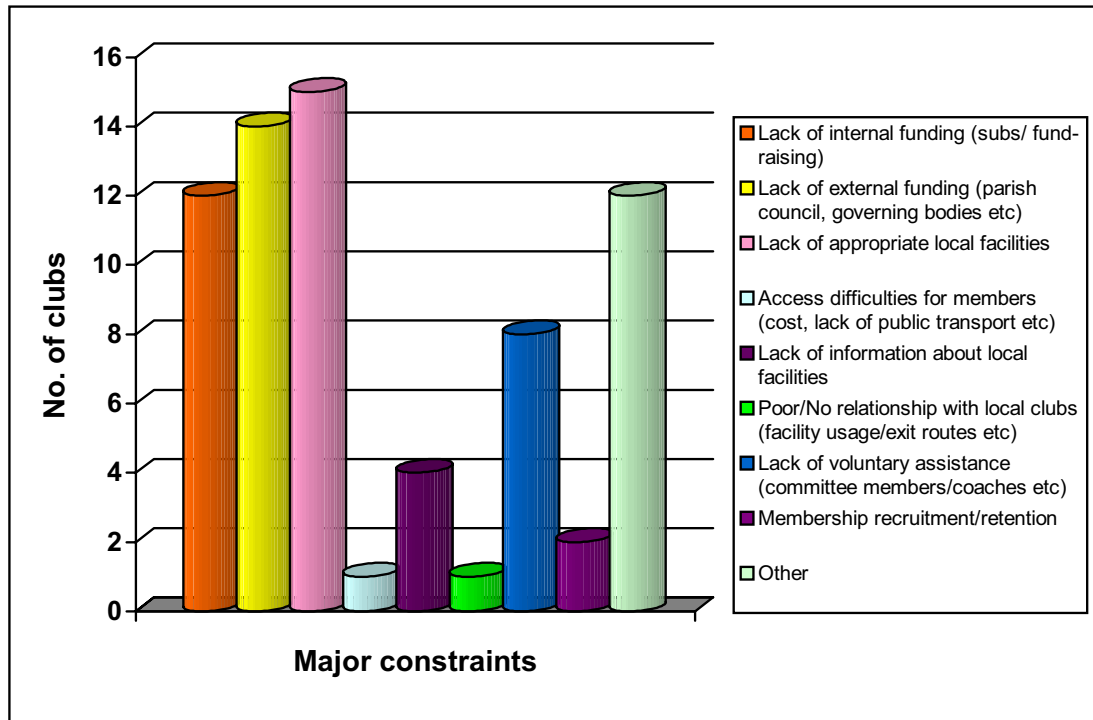
Facilities used

- the majority of teams hire District Council owned pitches, although there are a number of Parish Council owned pitches which are also frequently used in the leagues including Spencer Recreation Ground and Folly Fields, Wheathampstead. Most teams are accommodated at Verulamium Park, Rothamsted Park and William Bird Playing Fields, and there is a high demand, particularly on Sundays, for these pitches.
- a number of clubs have chosen to lease their pitches from the District Council to enable them to have sole use of the pitch. London Colney FC (Cotlandswick), Harpenden Town FC (Rothamsted Park) and St Albans City FC (Clarence Park) all have this arrangement with the Council. Colney Heath FC and Sandridge Rovers FC lease their pitches from Parish Councils.
- Harvesters FC have recently been awarded a Football Foundation grant and have developed a third generation football pitch of a standard found at training grounds of the top professional clubs in the country. This facility was opened in 2003 and is now available for use both of the football club and local schools. In addition, disabled coaching is available.

Constraints

- the major constraints facing football clubs in the district are highlighted in Graph 4.3 below. The main issue identified was a lack of appropriate local facilities – many clubs feel that there are insufficient suitable pitches in the district to meet their requirements. A shortage of both internal and external funding was also considered problematic.
- further issues identified by a number of clubs included a lack of training facilities and a perception of poor quality changing facilities within the district.

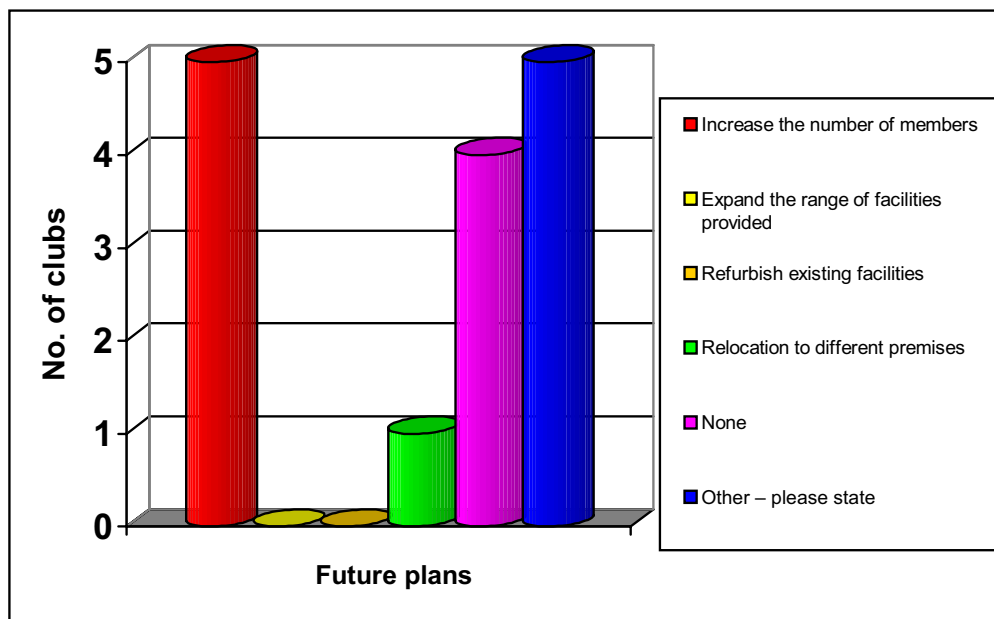
Graph 4.3 Major constraints facing football clubs in the district



Future plans

- the future plans of clubs are highlighted in Graph 4.4 below. Only five clubs indicated that they intend to expand in the future, and four clubs have no plans at all. Other plans outlined included the intention to change leagues, to gain promotion, the development of junior teams and to work towards the Charter Standard Award.

Graph 4.4 Future plans of football clubs



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Cricket Clubs in St Albans City and District – an overview

Membership

- almost 50% of clubs in the district run more than one team and many teams are starting to run large junior sections. Redbourn Cricket Club also runs a women's team. The largest cricket club in the district is Harpenden Cricket Club, which runs 9 adult teams in addition to 7 junior teams, and plays at Harpenden Common. 50% of responding clubs indicated that membership of their club has remained static over the last few years. Harpenden Cricket Club have now also developed three mini cricket teams. The majority of responding cricket teams indicated that they planned to expand in the future and to increase the range of junior teams in the district.

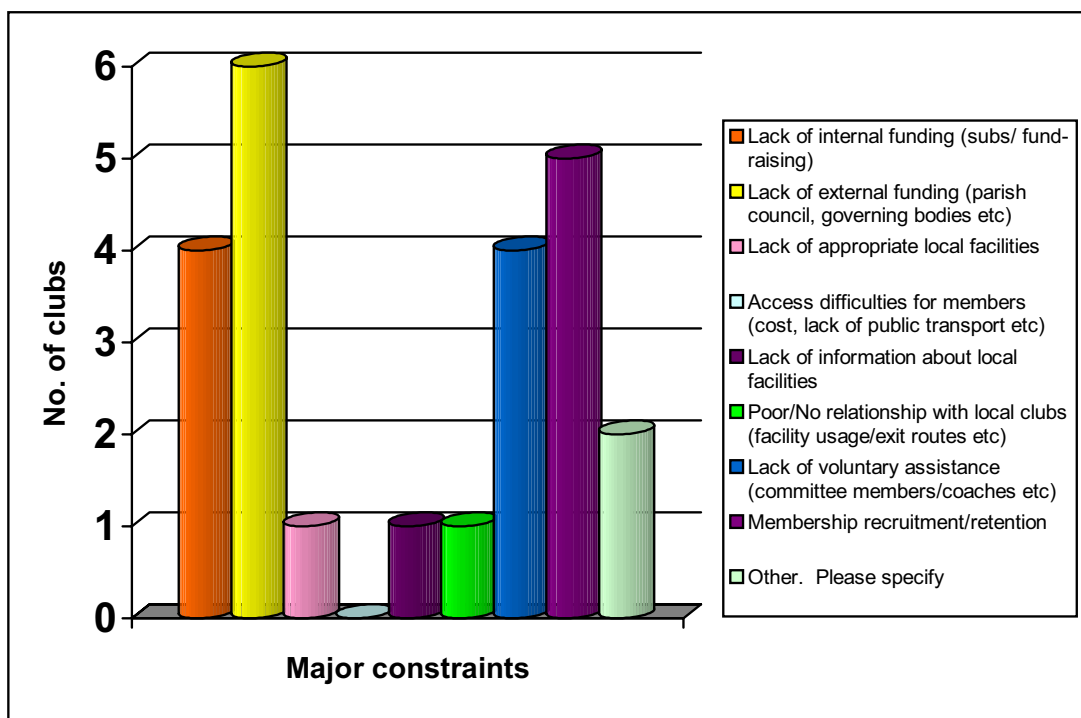
Facilities used

- only Old Albanians Sports Club own their own cricket pitch – all of the other pitches are owned by Parish Councils or the District Council. The Council hires out pitches at Rothamsted Park, William Bird, Verulamium Park and Clarence Park. London Colney Cricket Club are based just outside the district, in Shenley.

Constraints

- the major constraints facing responding cricket clubs are illustrated in Graph 4.5 below. The primary constraints are a lack of both internal and external funding, difficulties recruiting voluntary assistance and a problem retaining members.

Graph 4.5 Major constraints faced by cricket clubs



Future Plans

- 35% of responding clubs intend to increase their membership in future seasons and a similar percentage aim to expand the range of facilities provided.

Rugby Clubs in St Albans City and District – an overview

Membership

- there are four main rugby clubs playing rugby union in the district – Old Verulamium RFC, St Albans RFC, Old Albanians RFC and Harpenden RFC. Additionally there are two rugby league clubs – Centurions Rugby League Club (based at Woollam Playing Fields) and St Albans Rugby League Club. The balance of teams indicates that rugby union is significantly more popular within St Albans. Membership of rugby clubs in the district is increasing, and it is thought that this has been stimulated by the new development at Woollam Playing Fields. Both Old Albanians RFC and Harpenden RFC now have significant junior and colts sections. This is likely to be stimulated further following the interest generated through the Rugby World Cup 2003 and the success of the England Rugby team.

Facilities used

- Old Albanians Sports Club has recently developed a brand new facility owned by the club, Woollam Playing Fields. Old Albanians RFC are based there, in addition to Centurions Rugby League. Both codes of rugby run adult and junior teams, and there are also female sections for both rugby union and league. This is the most proactive club in the district at present and the club is the largest private club facility of its type in Europe.
- all other rugby clubs own their own grounds – St Albans RFC play at Oaklands Lane adjacent to Harvesters FC, Harpenden RFC play at Redbourn Lane, and Old Verulamium play at Cotlandswick, adjacent to London Colney FC. Facilities at all rugby clubs in the district are perceived to be good quality.

Constraints

- the lack of a rugby development officer was identified as a key constraint by rugby clubs.

Future Plans

- all responding clubs intend to increase their membership in future seasons
- Harpenden RFC intend to develop new facilities on their site including a fitness centre, swimming pool, extension to existing clubhouse, two synthetic turf pitches, rearrangement of existing pitch layout, car parking and the installation of additional floodlighting. Planning approval has been granted for the scheme, subject to referral to the Secretary of State and the signing of a Section 106 agreement.

Hockey Clubs in St Albans – an overview

Membership

- although there is only one hockey club playing in the district at present (St Albans Hockey Club), there are three further clubs whose players are from within the district catchment of St Albans but do not currently play within the district. As a result of the limited number of STPs, these clubs play at Hatfield University, and Luton. Harpenden Hockey Club currently run a junior coaching scheme at the Old Albanians site STP, and are keen for the development of an STP within the Harpenden area to allow them the opportunity to play within the district.
- St Albans Hockey Club is one of the largest and most successful mixed clubs in the country. Over 20 teams now play under the St Albans name; 9 adult male teams, 6 adult female teams, 5 male junior teams and 5 female junior teams.

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Standard of play

- St Albans Hockey Club has two national league sides and the men's first team play in the National Premier League.

Facilities used

- the STP at Clarence Park is the home of St Albans Hockey Club. They hire this facility from the District Council, and there are also two grass pitches on site.

Constraints

- as discussed earlier there is perceived to be a shortage of suitable facilities at present. Harpenden Mens, Harpenden Ladies and Rothamsted Hockey Club travel outside the district to play their competitive matches despite the fact that most of their players reside within St Albans City and District. All three of these clubs would prefer to be based within St Albans City and District.

Future plans

- there is a desire for a STP to be built within the Harpenden area to accommodate Harpenden Mens and Ladies within the district.

Summary

4.53 The key issues emerging from supply and demand data detailed in Section 4 are:

- there are increasing numbers of junior and mini soccer teams, and the demand for provision for female teams is growing rapidly. In addition, junior and female cricket is likely to increase and there is a requirement for separate segregated facilities in all sports to accommodate females and young players. There are a number of clubs (particularly football clubs) developing strong junior sections and there is potential that players participating at this age will continue to play through the age groups, eventually stimulating increased demand in senior sport. It is likely that there will be increased demand for pitches in future years.
- there is a relatively good ratio of adults to pitches although there is a low percentage of secured community pitches and consultation indicates that the quality of pitches is a concern
- the LEA is a significant provider of pitches but only 7% of sites are secured for community use – there are a number of school facilities which are currently used by the community but have no formal, 'secure' agreement. There are several school sites which are unsecured venues but permit use by community teams at the present time.
- the condition of existing pitches varies, although private or leased pitches overall are of a superior standard to other sites. Quality of rugby pitches is particularly good, and the Woollam Playing Fields is a high quality facility. Pitch quality investigations highlight drainage as the main concern for pitches in St Albans City and District at present.
- poor drainage has a negative effect on many pitch sites, and the slope of some pitches (particularly football) is not conducive to high level participation
- although there is evidence of vandalism and litter at the majority of sites, in general pitches appear to be well maintained and looked after
- there is an identified need for training and casual football facilities as existing pitches are not available for hire at present – this is particularly the case in football

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- due to a lack of available STPs within the district, three hockey clubs currently use facilities outside of the district as competitive match venues. Their current venues are not their preferred locations for these clubs.

4.54 The supply and demand data contained in this Section will be set in context by applying the *Playing Pitch Methodology* in Section 5.

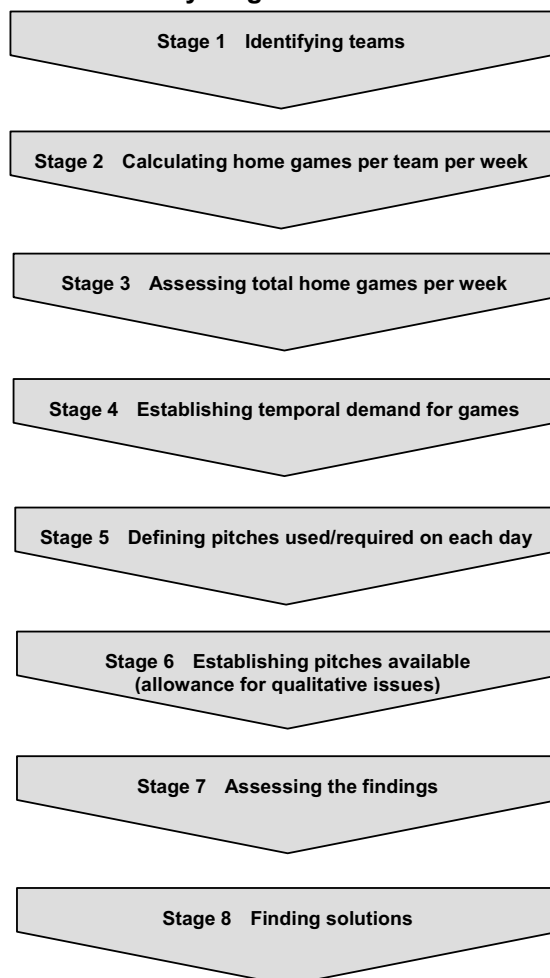
SECTION 5

THE PLAYING PITCH METHODOLOGY

The Playing Pitch Methodology: Findings for St Albans

- 5.1 The Playing Pitch Methodology (PPM) comprises eight stages. Stages 1 to 6 involve numerical calculations, whilst Stages 7 and 8 develop issues and solutions. The methodology is employed to analyse the adequacy of current provision and to assess possible future situations, in order that latent and future demand (identified through Team Generation Rates), and the problems with quality, use and capacity of existing pitches can be taken into account.

Flow-chart to illustrate the key stages:



- 5.2 It is implicit to the methodology that each sport is dealt with individually with a specific set of calculations for each because, despite some superficial similarities, they exhibit very different patterns of play.
- 5.3 We have further subdivided the analysis of some sports to deal with specific sub-sectors of activity within them, e.g. junior play or adult play, in order that important aspects are not submerged in aggregated data. Football and rugby have been subdivided in this manner, whereas no differentiation has been made between junior and senior cricket and junior and senior hockey teams as they play on pitches of similar dimensions.
- 5.4 The summary of the findings for the district (Table 5.1) as a whole gives an indication of the shortfall/surplus of pitches for each sport.

SECTION FIVE - THE PLAYING PITCH METHODOLOGY: FINDINGS

- 5.5 Our research has shown that in St Albans City and District, many matches are cancelled due to bad weather and/or poor drainage. This can have severe impacts on the football season, and greatly reduces the stock of pitches available within the district.
- 5.6 The new PPM (*Towards A Level Playing Field*) allows authorities to take into account the carrying capacity (i.e. the number of games that pitches are adequately able to sustain per week) when calculating the playing pitch methodology.
- 5.7 The calculations undertaken below assume that **all pitches are able to undertake a standard two games per week** (for the full season). These calculations will then be rerun later in this Section taking into account the perceived quality of each of the community pitches within St Albans, many of which are considered to be unable to sustain the assumed two games per week. In addition, a number of pitches within the district are considered to be unsuitable for league football for a variety of reasons. Consideration will be given to these pitches when taking into account the carrying capacity of pitches.
- 5.8 PPM calculations take into account only those pitches that are secured for community use, in line with Sport England guidance. At this stage, the effect that mini teams will have on provision is not considered. This will be taken into account later in this Section, under the heading of 'Carrying capacity – the local scenario'.
- 5.9 Table 5.1 shows the calculations undertaken to determine the surplus/deficit of pitches in the district. In line with the PPM methodology, one STP is considered to be equivalent to 4 grass pitches.

Table 5.1 PPM calculations for St Albans City and District (2003/04)

			Football	Cricket	Rugby	Hockey
STAGE ONE Identifying teams ¹		Adult teams	121	73	26	25
		Junior teams	113		18	
STAGE TWO Calculate home games per week ²		Adult games	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.5
		Junior teams	0.5		0.5	
STAGE THREE (S1x S2) Assessing total home games per week		Adult games	60.5	51.1	13	12.5
		Junior teams	57		9	
STAGE FOUR Establish temporal demand for pitches ³	Saturday	Adult games	30%	50%	85%	60%
		Junior teams	30%			
	Sunday	Adult games	70%	40%	15%	40%
		Junior teams	60%		100%	
	Midweek	Adult games		10%		
		Junior teams	10%			
STAGE FIVE (S3 x S4) Defining pitches used each day	Saturday	Adult games	18.2	25.6	11.1	7.5
		Junior teams	17			
	Sunday	Adult games	42.4	20.4	9.0	5
		Junior teams	33.9			
	Midweek	Adult games		5.11		0
		Junior teams	5.65			
STAGE SIX Establishing pitches currently available (community use only)		Adult pitches	66	15	14	4 (1 STP)
		Junior pitches	13			
STAGE SEVEN (S6-S5) Identifying shortfall (-) and oversupply (+) ⁵	Saturday	Adult pitches	47.9	-10.6	3.0	-3.5 (0.9 STPs)
		Junior pitches	-4			
	Sunday	Adult pitches	23.7	2	14.0	-1.0
		Junior pitches	-20.9		-9.0	
	Midweek	Adult pitches	66	9.9		
		Junior pitches	7.4			

SECTION FIVE - THE PLAYING PITCH METHODOLOGY: FINDINGS

Notes:

1. Excludes mini-soccer (as per PPM guidance). Discussed further in Section 6.
2. As per PPM guidance, it is assumed that all football, cricket and rugby teams play a home match every fortnight. However, for cricket teams it is assumed that many teams play home matches more than every fortnight (ie mid-week matches), hence the figure of 0.7.
3. Determined by a combination of questionnaire responses, telephone interviews and discussions with league secretaries.
4. As per PPM guidance, it is assumed that one STP is the equivalent of four grass hockey pitches. Grass pitches have been excluded from the analysis, as league hockey should be played on STPs. Surplus or shortfall figures should therefore be divided by 4 to obtain shortfall / surplus in real terms.
5. The figure is **bold** represent the peak-day demand.

5.10 Key issues arising from Table 5.1 are:

- **the over-supply of full-size adult football pitches (23.7)** on peak days (Sundays) indicates that, in theory, senior football is currently well provided for in the district and there are sufficient pitches to accommodate the required number of matches
- **the under-supply of junior football pitches (-20.9)** on peak days (Sunday) indicates that currently pitches may be overused and/or junior games are being played on adult pitches. In addition, the fact that there is no spare capacity on existing junior pitches may prevent junior clubs from expanding, or new clubs being formed in the district. Alternatively, clubs may be forced to play some of their games outside the district. This situation may be accentuated as a result of the demand for adult football, as the peak day for both adult and junior football is Sunday.
- there is a large **under-supply of cricket pitches (-10.6)** on peak days (Saturday) indicating that cricket pitches in the district may currently be overused. This includes provision for both adult and junior teams but excludes teams from London Colney Cricket Club, who currently play outside the district.
- there is an **oversupply of adult rugby pitches** on peak days (Saturday) equivalent to 3 pitches. However this contrasts with the **undersupply of junior pitches** equivalent to 9 pitches on peak days (Sunday), which suggests that junior teams may currently be using adult pitches.
- there is a theoretical shortfall of 3.5 grass pitches for hockey, equivalent to almost **1 synthetic turf pitch** (overall total divided by four to give the shortfall or surplus in real terms). These figures exclude the teams playing at clubs who would like to play within the district but currently play outside. Only the Clarence Park pitch is included in the figures because the other 2 synthetic pitches in the district are not suitable for hockey.

Analysing provision in the district in more detail

- 5.11 Analysing pitch provision in the district as a whole disguises the patterns of supply and demand within different geographical areas of the district.
- 5.12 For pitch sports there is an accepted need for players to travel to games. Analysis by ward does not take into account cross-boundary issues and potential natural barriers that may prohibit players from using certain pitches. Localised pitches and excellent public transport networks are vital for junior pitches, as players are unable to travel to matches themselves.
- 5.13 Therefore, as discussed in Section 2, analysis areas have been used to assess pitch provision in St Albans City and District. A map illustrating the defined areas can also be found in Sections 2 and 4. Table 5.2 overleaf reveals the shortfall/surplus by each area.
- 5.14 When the PPM is applied at area level, further detail is revealed. Negative numbers indicate a shortfall of provision. Shortfalls are highlighted in red. **Hockey has been excluded from this table as there is only one pitch in the central area, and figures (which need to be divided by four) distort the overall under/oversupply.**

SECTION FIVE - THE PLAYING PITCH METHODOLOGY: FINDINGS

- 5.15 *In all of the summary tables that follow, figures are rounded to one decimal place. Calculations for the total over/undersupply are based on the unrounded figure for each analysis area. Due to the subsequent rounding of figures for summary purposes within each analysis area, these figures may not equate exactly to the figure for total under/over supply when rounded to one decimal place.*

Table 5.2 Summary of PPM results by area in 2003/04

PPM Summary table 2003/04 - Analysis Area	Adult Football	Junior Football	Cricket	Adult Rugby	Junior Rugby	Total pitches
Redbourn and Surrounds	1.3	-4.6	-2.2	0.0	0.0	-5.5
West Harpenden and Surrounds	6.5	2.8	-3.7	1.9	-4.5	3.0
East Harpenden and Wheathampstead	2.6	-3.2	-1.1	0.0	0.0	-1.7
Sandridge	1.3	1.0	-1.1	0.0	0.0	1.2
Central	5.5	-0.1	-0.6	0.8	-4.5	1.0
Colney Heath	1.6	-11.4	0.0	-0.6	0.0	-10.4
London Colney	3.2	-5.5	0.0	0.9	0.0	-1.5
Park Street and St Stephens	1.9	0.1	-1.9	0.0	0.0	0.1
Total	23.7	-20.9	-10.6	3.0	-9.0	-13.9

- numbers = shortfall

- 4 of the 8 areas exhibit no overall shortfall of pitches. However, it is possible to identify that all areas have some shortfall of certain types of pitch, i.e. no area is fully supplied in terms of the range of playing pitches.
- of the areas exhibiting an overall shortfall in provision, the most significant shortfall is focused in Colney Heath. Closer examination of this shortfall indicates that there is a significant dearth of junior football pitches within this area, equivalent to 11.4 pitches. There are large numbers of junior football teams based in this area, playing for Harvesters FC and St Albans City Youth Football Club. Developments are underway in Highfield Park for a home for St Albans City Youth FC, following a successful Football Foundation bid.
- other shortfalls are found in Redbourn and Surrounds, East Harpenden and Wheathampstead and London Colney. Again these deficits in pitches are primarily junior football pitches, as a result of the presence of larger junior clubs within these areas.
- the largest overall surplus of pitches is found in West Harpenden and Surrounds where there is an oversupply of pitches equivalent to 3 pitches, predominantly due to an oversupply of adult football pitches. There is however a significant undersupply of 4.5 junior rugby pitches.
- the Central area has similar characteristics to West Harpenden and Surrounds, with an overall oversupply (1), a large oversupply in adult football pitches (5.5) and undersupply in junior rugby (-4.5).
- all areas of the district show a surplus of adult football, although only three areas (West Harpenden and surrounds, Sandridge and St Stephens and Park Street)

SECTION FIVE - THE PLAYING PITCH METHODOLOGY: FINDINGS

have a surplus of junior football pitches. The largest surplus of adult football pitches are in West Harpenden and surrounds and the central area.

- all areas of the district have an undersupply of cricket provision, with the exception of Colney Heath and London Colney, where supply equals demand. London Colney Cricket Club are based just outside the district boundary in Shenley, hence they have not been included within PPM calculations
- as seen with adult football, the district is relatively well supplied with adult rugby pitches, and only Colney Heath has an undersupply. The main areas of undersupply of junior rugby are located in West Harpenden and surrounds and the central area with deficiencies equivalent to 4.5 pitches.

Predicting the future

Team Generation Rates

- 5.16 Team Generation Rates (TGRs) indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team.
- 5.17 TGRs are derived by dividing the appropriate population age band in the area by the number of teams playing within that area in that age band. Calculating TGRs enables fair comparison to be made between different areas where similar studies have been undertaken.
- 5.18 Dividing the estimated total number of males aged between 10 and 44 years by the number of male teams playing each sport (excluding minisports – as played by under 10s, and veterans as played by over 44s) within St Albans (348 teams (27 teams are female) gives an overall district TGR of 89. This means that there is one team for every 89 male residents aged 10 to 44.
- 5.19 Tables 5.3 to 5.6 compare TGRs in each sport with those of other studies. The majority of these other studies were prepared using the old playing pitch methodology, which did not consider female teams separately. These figures therefore include female teams based on the male population and should be used for comparison purposes only.

Table 5.3 Football Team Generation Rates

Local Authority/Area	TGR (football)
Mid Devon District Council	1:118
Bromsgrove District	1:127
South Somerset District Council	1:131
St Albans City and District Council	1:132
East Devon District Council	1:169
Worcester City Council	1:170
Wychavon District Council	1:180
Redditch Borough Council	1:182
Kennet District Council	1:183
Crawley, Horsham, Hastings, Bexhill and Maidstone	1:183
Colchester Borough	1:200
Derwentside District Council	1:230
Portsmouth City Council	1:236
Rochdale MBC	1:238
Malvern Hills District Council	1:241
West Devon District Council	1:244
Wyre Forest Borough Council	1:252
Tyne and Wear	1:290
North Wiltshire District Council	1:314
Average	1:201

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Table 5.4 Cricket Team Generation Rates

Local Authority/Area	TGR (cricket)
Bromsgrove District Council	1:231
West Devon District Council	1:233
Wychavon District Council	1:239
Mid Devon District Council	1:271
North Devon District Council	1:298
South Somerset District Council	1:298
Derwentside District Council	1:328
Kennet District	1:407
St Albans City and District Council	1:424
Torbay Borough Council	1:463
Malvern Hills District Council;	1:499
North Wiltshire District Council	1:501
Rochdale MBC	1:560
Colchester Borough	1:568
Worcester City Council	1:664
Redditch Borough Council	1:703
East Devon District Council	1:737
Wyre Forest District Council	1:831
Portsmouth City Council	1:2,808
Average	1:582

Table 5.5 Rugby Team Generation Rates

Local Authority/Area	TGR (rugby)
Bromsgrove District Council	1:306
Mid Devon District Council	1:495
Wychavon District Council	1:498
West Devon District Council	1:501
South Somerset District Council	1: 608
St Albans City and District Council	1:703
East Devon District Council	1:716
Worcester City	1:875
Wyre Forest District Council	1:1,062
Malvern Hills District Council	1:1,068
Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council	1:1,123
North Wiltshire District Council	1:1,185
Colchester Borough Council	1:1,206
Kennet District Council	1:1,337
Redditch Borough Council	1:1,407
Derwentside District Council	1:1,431
Average	1:908

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Table 5.6 Hockey team generation rates

Local Authority/Area	TGR (hockey)
East Devon District Council	1:437
Wychavon District Council	1:450
Worcester City	1:875
Mid Devon District Council	1:1,025
Wyre Forest District Council	1:1,062
South Somerset District Council	1:1,081
St Albans City and District Council	1:1,237
Bromsgrove District Council	1:1,296
West Devon District Council	1:1,668
Kennet District Council	1:2,977
Redditch Borough Council	1:3,095
Colchester Borough Council	1:3,217
North Wiltshire District Council	1:4,400
Malvern Hills District Council	1:4,986
Rochdale MBC	1:16,484
Average	1:2,953

What do these numbers mean?

5.20 The following examples help clarify what TGRs mean:

1:100 → high TGR → relatively high participation and low latent (unmet) demand

1:1000 → low TGR → relatively low participation and high latent (unmet) demand

5.21 For St Albans City and District Council, this means:

Overall

1:89 → high TGR → low latent (unmet) demand

Football

1:132 → high TGR → relatively low latent (unmet) demand

Cricket

1:424 → medium TGR → some latent (unmet) demand

Rugby

1:703 → relatively low TGR → relatively high latent (unmet) demand

Hockey

1:1237 → low TGR → high latent (unmet) demand.

5.22 It is important to note that latent demand indicated by TGRs is relative to other studies. At present, no national TGR figures are available. In summary St Albans has a relatively high TGR (although individual sport TGRs in rugby and hockey are low), indicating a low latent (unmet) demand in all sports other than rugby and hockey.

5.23 Figures for female teams have not been calculated separately at this point as a result of the small number of teams and the lack of comparable data for other authorities.

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- 5.24 The new PPM, 'Towards A Level Playing Field' requires TGRs to be calculated for different age groups and different sub divisions. Male and female sport is therefore considered separately. Calculations (based on initial 2001 census figures which do not break the age groups down into exact figures) for St Albans City and District Council are shown in Table 5.7 below. For the purposes of TGR calculations, where age groups splits do not exactly match those required, the distribution of people throughout the age groups has been assumed to be even.

Table 5.7 TGR Calculations by Sport Sub-Groups

Sport Sub Group	Age Group (and Population)	St Albans TGR (no of teams)
<i>Football</i>		
Mini Soccer - Boys	6-9 (3375)	1:77 (44 teams)
Junior Football – Boys	10-15 (4803)	1:45 (105 teams)
Junior Football – Girls	10-15 (4622)	1:577 (8 teams)
Men's Football	16-45 (27021)	1:227 (119 teams)
Women's Football	16-45 (26830)	1:13415 (2 teams)
<i>Cricket</i>		
Junior Cricket - Boys	11-17 (5394)	1:245 (22 teams)
Junior Cricket - Girls	11-17 (5213)	N/A (no teams)
Men's Cricket	18-55 (36590)	1:731 (50 teams)
Women's Cricket	18-55 (34326)	1:34326 (1 teams)
<i>Hockey</i>		
Junior Hockey – Boys	11-15 (3984)	1:797 (5 teams)
Junior Hockey – Girls	11-15 (3836)	1:767 (5 teams)
Men's Hockey	16-45 (27021)	1:3002 (9 teams)
Women's Hockey	16-45 (26830)	1:4472 (6 teams)
<i>Rugby Union</i>		
Junior Rugby –Boys	13-17 (4162)	1:277 (15 teams)
Junior Rugby – Girls	16-17 (1376)	N/A (0 teams)
Senior Rugby – Men	18-45 (25611)	1:1348 (19 teams)
Senior Rugby - Women	18-45 (25441)	1:6360 (4 teams)
<i>Rugby League</i>		
Junior Rugby –Boys	13-17 (4162)	1:2081 (2 teams)
Junior Rugby – Girls	16-17 (1376)	1:1376 (1 team)
Senior Rugby – Men	18-45 (25611)	1:8537 (3 teams)
Senior Rugby - Women	18-45 (25441)	N/A (0 teams)

- 5.25 It is particularly evident that TGRs for junior sports, in particular junior male football, are very high, indicating low levels of latent demand.
- 5.26 These calculations have utilised the 2001 census statistics. Comparisons against other local authorities are not yet available, as the new methodology has only recently been published and few authorities have completed Playing Pitch Strategies using this new methodology.

Projections for 2013

- 5.27 As discussed in Section 2, local population projections for St Albans are not available, due to the changing ward boundaries and the 2001 census. Revised population estimates are based on the most up to date national population projections and revised using 2001 census output area statistics.
- 5.28 By applying TGRs to the population projections for 2013, we can project the theoretical number of teams that would be generated over the next decade. This can then be applied

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to the PPM model to forecast the future shortfall of pitches; assuming that no new pitches are built in the interim and that 'district average' TGRs are applied to those analysis areas with current low TGRs (to simulate a possible increase in participation rates).

- 5.29 Overall TGRs were generated for each sport by analysis area and were then applied to wards in that analysis area to predict participation in 2013. In analysis areas where the TGR in 2003/04 for a sport was 0, the district average for that sport was assigned. Calculations for 2013 therefore assume uniform participation across the wards in each analysis area and do not take into consideration where pitches are, or where teams are currently based. Consequently comparison with 2003/04 calculations should only be conducted at a district level. Women's teams have been included in the calculations to determine future pitch demand, as they use the same pitches as male teams.
- 5.30 In addition, in line with the revised playing pitch methodology, *Towards A Level Playing Field*, the potential impact of sports development programmes has been considered. Following consultation and research into the local situation, it has been assumed that sports development programmes over the next ten years will result in a 10% increase in the number of teams in the district (but the balance of teams between adult and junior will remain the same). This potential increase has therefore been taken into account in Playing Pitch Methodology calculations for 2013.
- 5.31 The results from this analysis are shown in Table 5.8.

Table 5.8 Summary of PPM results by analysis area for 2013

PPM Summary table 2013						
	Adult Football	Junior Football	Cricket	Adult Rugby	Junior Rugby	Total pitches
Redbourn and Surrounds	-2.7	-2.5	-2.6	-0.5	-0.4	-8.8
West Harpenden and Surrounds	9.9	-1.7	-4.9	-0.1	-3.3	-0.1
East Harpenden and Wheathampstead	0.2	-2.0	-1.4	-2.2	-1.8	-7.1
Sandridge	1.6	0.7	-1.4	-1.1	-0.9	-1.2
Central	11.4	-8.1	-1.7	-0.5	-4.5	-3.3
Colney Heath	-5.4	-7.5	-1.3	0.3	-1.4	-15.4
London Colney	-0.5	-4.0	-1.9	1.5	-1.2	-6.1
Park Street and St Stephens	2.5	-1.0	-2.5	-1.2	-1.0	-3.2
Total	17.0	-26.2	-17.7	-3.8	-14.5	-45.3

- 5.32 As shown in Table 5.8, as a result of the projected increase in population and the impact of sports development, overall demand for pitches will increase. There will be a significant overall undersupply of pitches in the district, focused primarily on junior pitches. The likely key issues for pitch provision in the district are:

- Redbourn and Surrounds illustrates the likelihood of an undersupply of all pitch types. There will be a potential overall undersupply equivalent to 8.8 pitches.
- the largest overall undersupply will be in Colney Heath, where the undersupply will be equivalent to 15.4 pitches caused predominantly through significant shortages in both adult and junior football pitches
- three areas within the district, Redbourn and Surrounds, London Colney and Colney Heath will potentially have an undersupply of adult football pitches by 2013,

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assuming that there is a slight increase in participation. There will however remain an overall oversupply of adult football pitches within the district, most of which is likely to be concentrated within the central area equivalent to 11.4 pitches, and West Harpenden and surrounds (9.9 pitches).

- the undersupply of junior football will increase slightly and there will be an undersupply in all areas with the exception of Sandridge
- there will be an undersupply of cricket pitches across the district equivalent to 17.7 pitches and all areas will be undersupplied by 2013. London Colney Cricket Club currently play outside the district.
- there will be undersupplies in all areas of the district in adult rugby with the exception of Colney Heath and London Colney. This has changed from a surplus in 2003/04
- in addition, there will be an undersupply of junior rugby pitches in all areas totalling 14.5
- West Harpenden and Surrounds shows a situation where supply almost equals demand in 2013 (-0.1) although there is a large oversupply in adult football pitches
- all analysis areas see predicted increases in pitch demand from 2003/04 to 2013 clearly reflecting the projected increase in population and impacts of increased sports development.

5.33 We have summarised the situation by totalling the shortfall or surplus of pitches for each area both in 2003/04 and 2013, ranking from greatest shortfall to greatest surplus. Table 5.9 below show the three areas with greatest shortfalls and surplus in rank order:

Table 5.9 Summary of greatest shortfalls and surpluses in 2003/04 and 2013

2003/04		Shortfall		2013		Shortfall	
1	Colney Heath		-10.4	1	Colney Heath		-15.4
2	Redbourn and Surrounds		-5.5	2	Redbourn and Surrounds		-8.8
3	East Harpenden and Wheathampstead		-1.7	3	East Harpenden and Wheathampstead		-7.1
2003/04		Surplus		2013		Surplus	
1	West Harpenden and surrounds		+3.0	1	No area in surplus		0
2	Sandridge		+1.2	2			
3	Central		+1.0	3			

5.34 While this is a crude measure, it does give an indication of where the significant shortfalls are located. Section 6 examines how these shortfalls can be addressed.

Mini Sports

5.35 The effect of mini sports (cricket, rugby and football) must also be taken into consideration when assessing level of under/oversupply in the district. Participation in both mini rugby and mini football are increasing rapidly both nationally and in St Albans City and District and demand for pitches will therefore continue to increase. Although there are limited effects, it is possible to assess provision taking into account team equivalents. 'Towards a Level Playing Field' indicates that 28 mini soccer teams playing across adult pitches could be treated as equivalent to 1 adult team. Although this may reduce the theoretical oversupply, in reality, the majority of mini teams are not currently using adult football pitches.

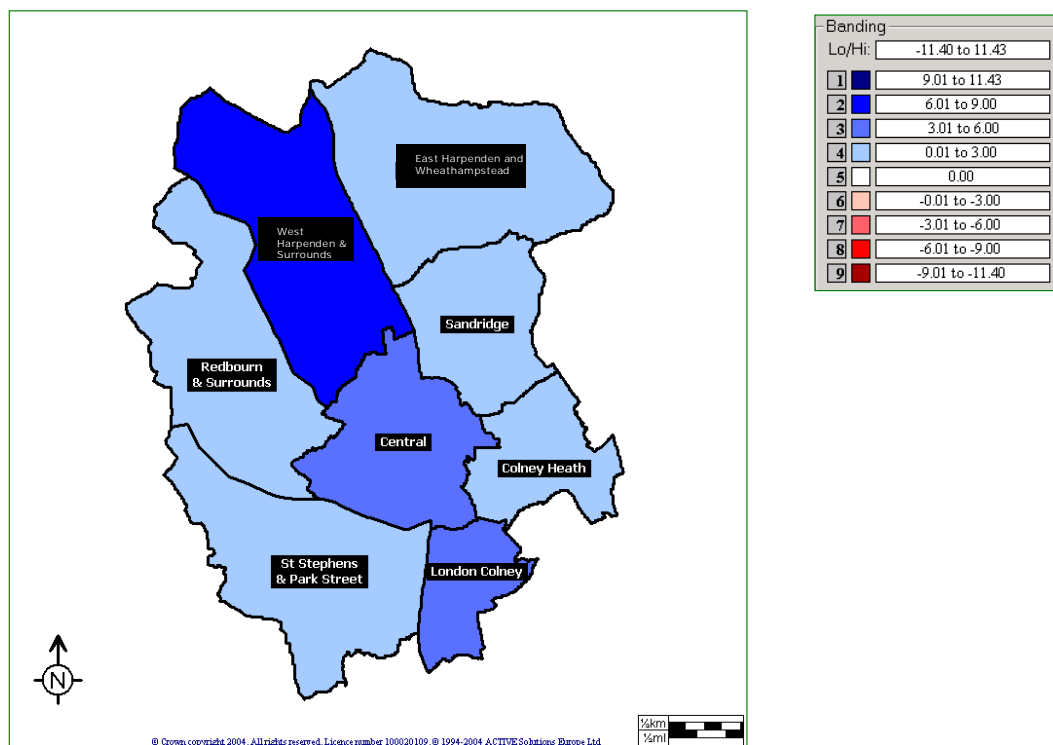
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- 5.36 Similarly, mini rugby teams can also be treated in this manner. As mini rugby teams within the district increase, there will be growing pressure on existing pitches to accommodate this demand. Although the number of mini teams in the district playing competitively at present is relatively small, there are large numbers of young people training. *Towards A Level Playing Field* indicates that 30 mini rugby teams could be treated as equivalent to one adult team if they are playing across adult pitches. In St Albans City and District, mini rugby is currently played across some senior pitches, and increases in participation in this sport could therefore be used to offset some of the oversupply that is illustrated through statistics. There are six mini rugby teams at Old Albanians, although these teams currently do not play competitively.

Maps showing over-supply and shortfall by catchment area

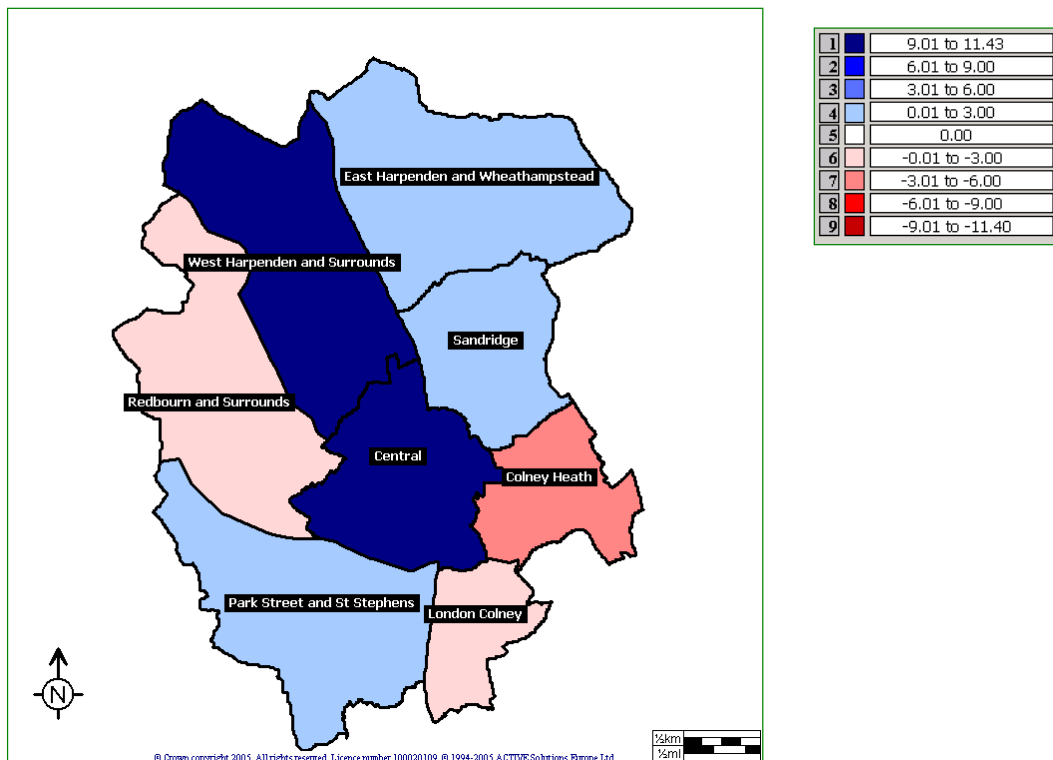
- 5.37 Maps showing surplus and deficiency by area and sport for 2003/04 and 2013 are shown below. Figures for 2013 have been produced by applying TGR figures for each area to estimated 2013 population projections. This gives an indication of the way in which the adequacy of local provision in each area and across the city and district will change during this period.
- 5.38 In maps 5.1 – 5.10 that follow, deficiencies are represented by shades of red and areas of oversupply are illustrated in blues.

Map 5.1 Shortfall/surplus of adult football pitches in 2003/04

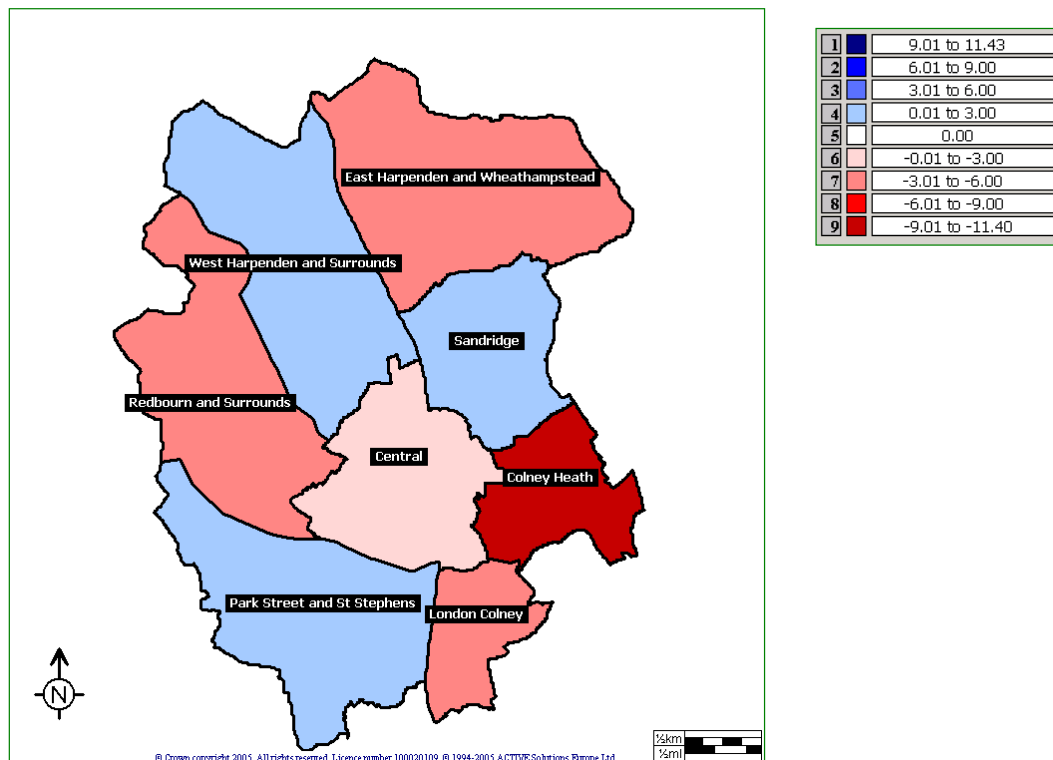


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Map 5.2 Shortfall/surplus of adult football pitches in 2013

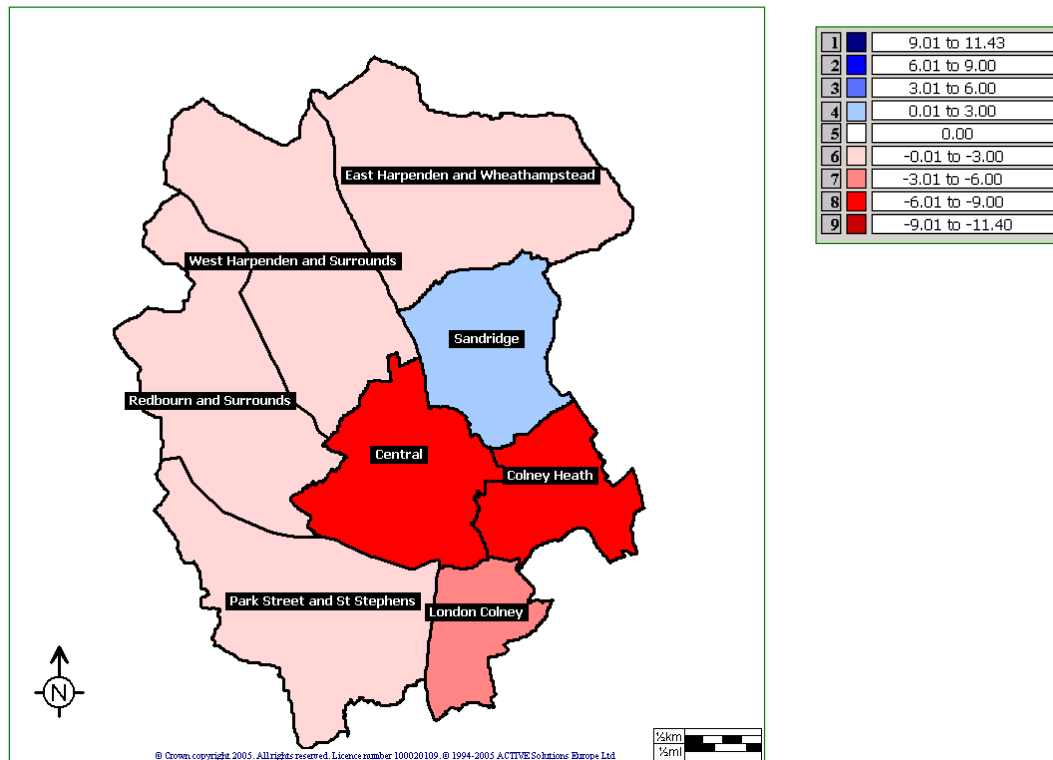


Map 5.3 Shortfall/surplus of junior football pitches in 2003/04

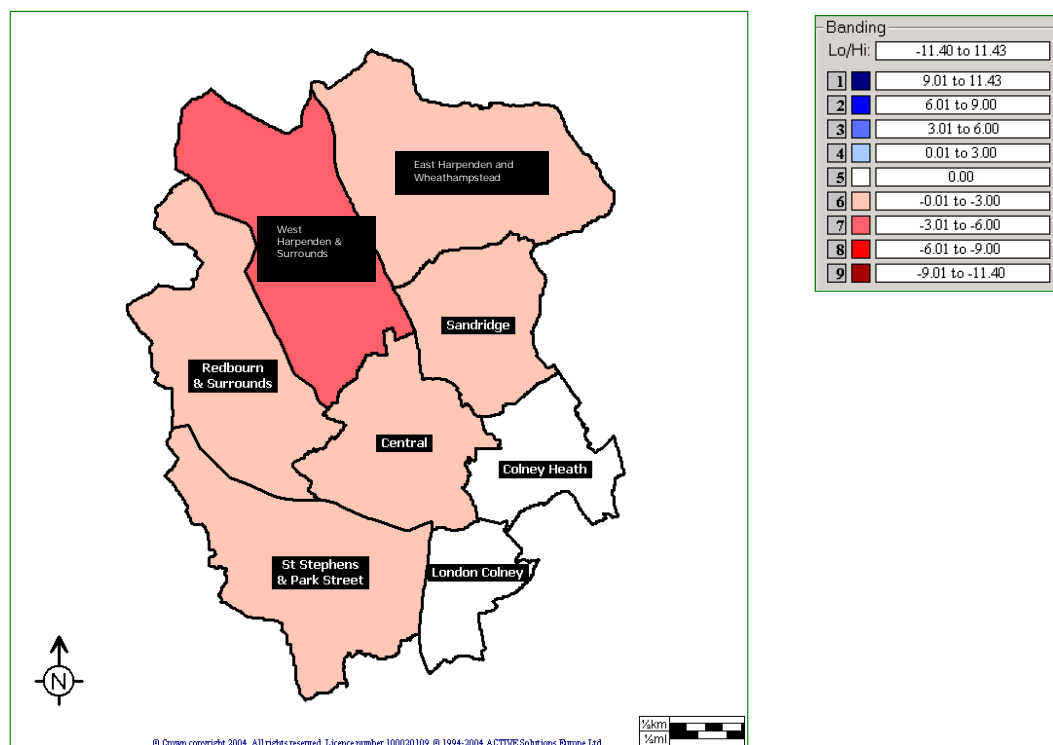


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Map 5.4 Shortfall/surplus of Junior Football Pitches in 2013

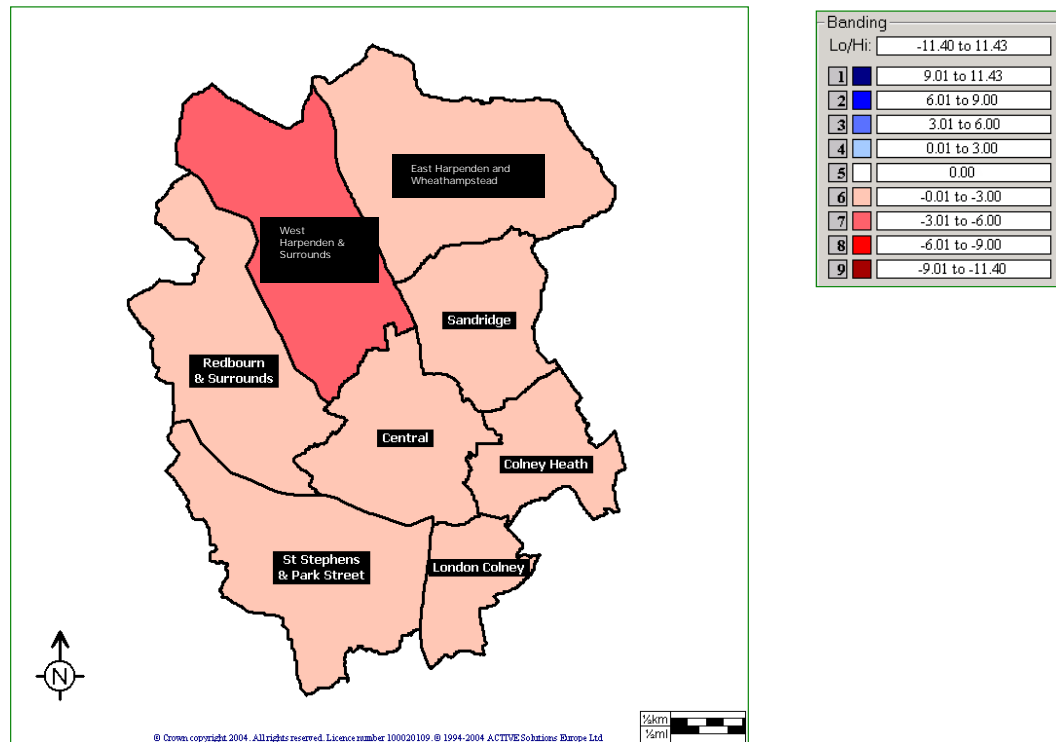


Map 5.5 Shortfall/surplus of Cricket Pitches in 2003/04

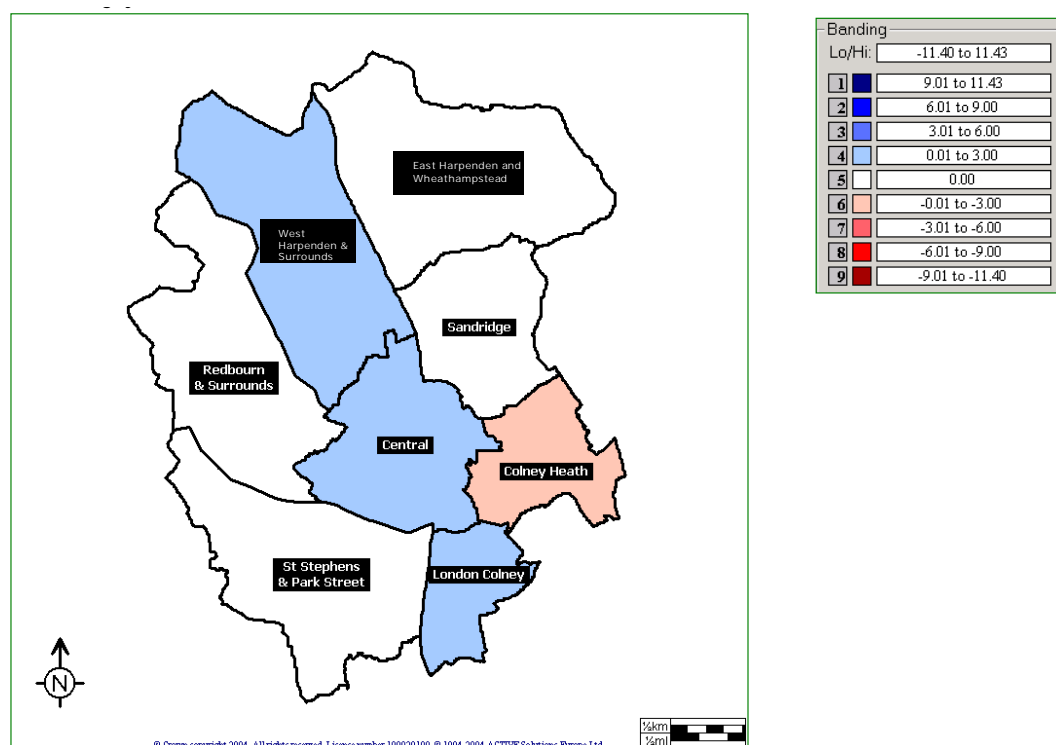


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Map 5.6 – Shortfalls and Surplus of Cricket Pitches in 2013

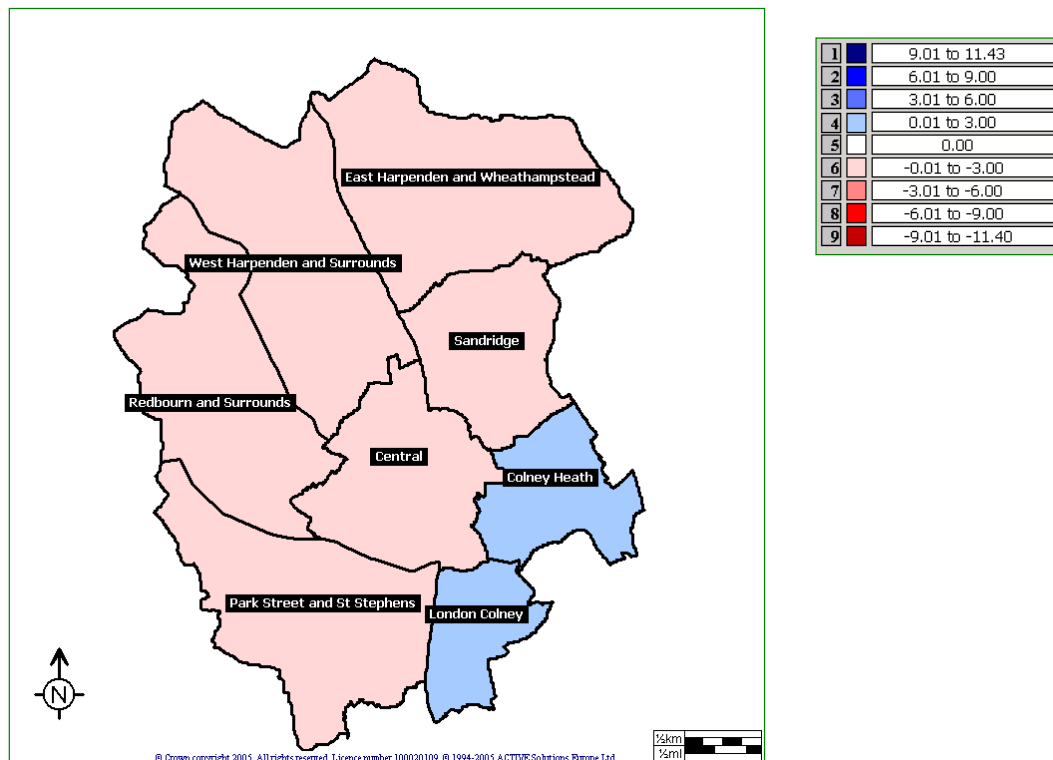


Map 5.7: Shortfall/surplus of rugby pitches in 2003/04

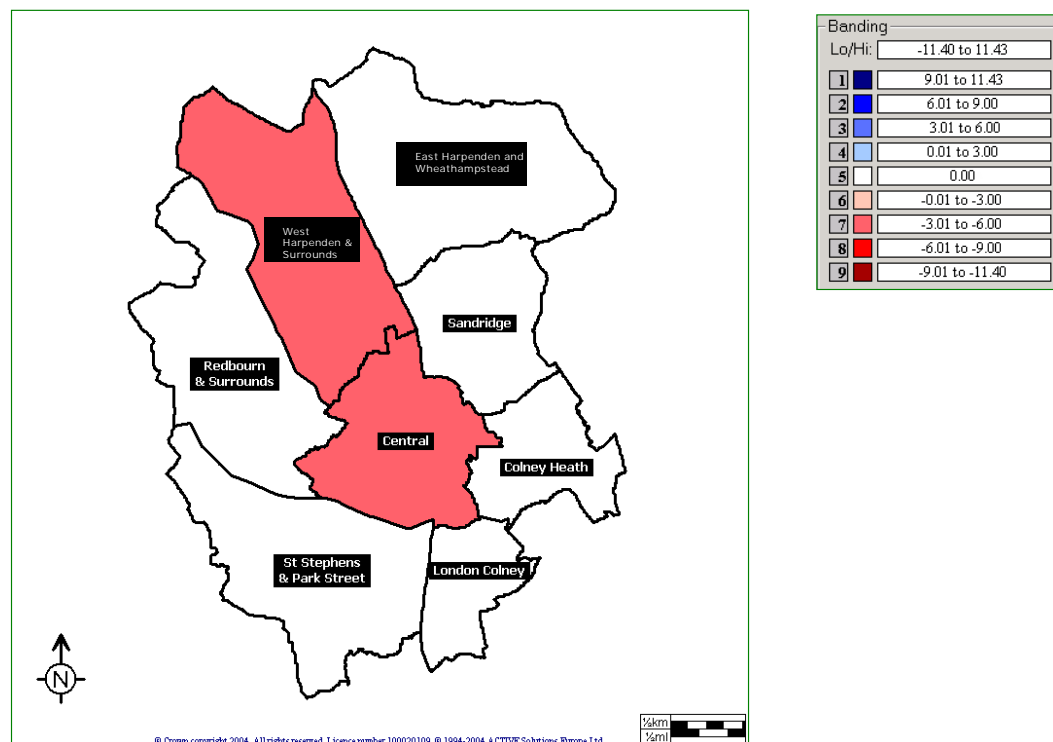


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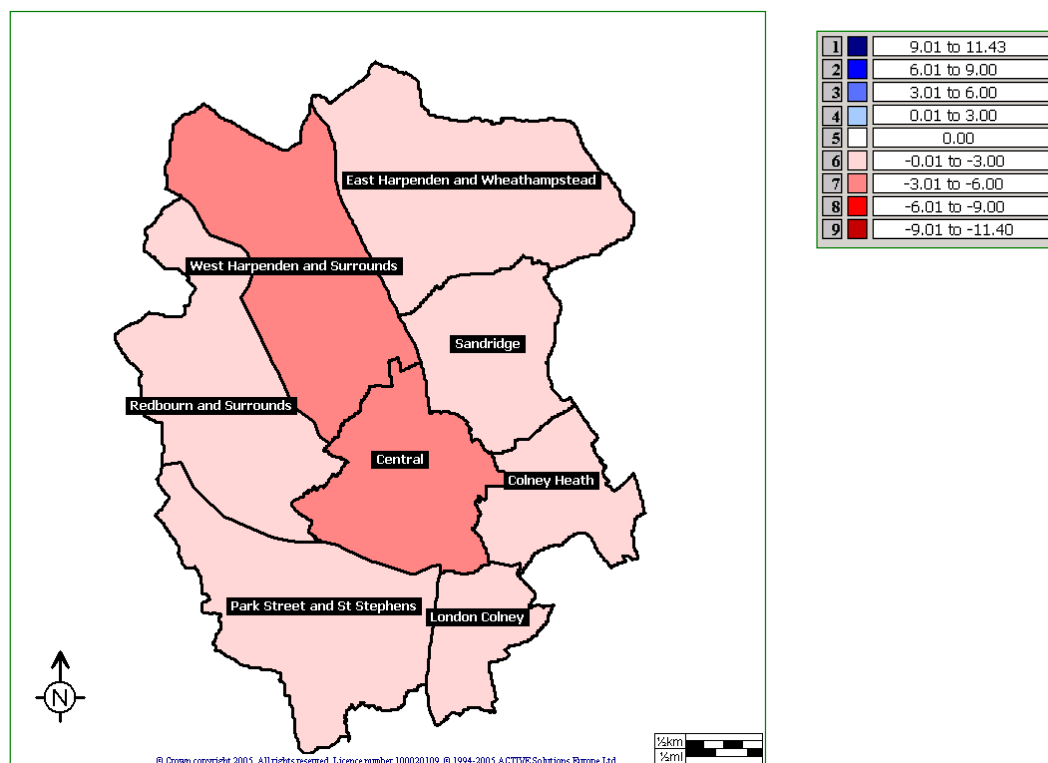
Map 5.8: Shortfall/surplus of adult rugby pitches in 2013



Map 5.9 Shortfall/surplus of junior rugby pitches in 2003/04



Map 5.10 Shortfall/surplus of junior rugby pitches in 2013



Carrying capacity – the local situation

- 5.39 PPM calculations detailed on previous pages indicate that there is a small shortfall of pitches across the district, including shortfalls of junior pitches and cricket pitches and an overall surplus of adult football pitches.
- 5.40 However, alternative evidence (cancellation figures, pitch bookings, consultation) suggests that in reality, the quantitative picture outlined may not accurately reflect the current playing pitch situation in St Albans City and District (in particular adult football pitches).
- 5.41 The 1991 playing pitch methodology assumed that all pitches are of sufficient standard to sustain two games per week. It is however acknowledged that this may not always be the case. The new playing pitch methodology, *Towards A Level Playing Field*, suggests that the quality of a pitch should be taken into account. In addition to running the playing pitch methodology based on the actual number of pitches available, we have recalculated the methodology taking into account the **perceived** quality of the pitches, based on consultation and feedback from current users.
- 5.42 The number of community matches a grass pitch can sustain is a function of the needs of users and quality of the pitch. For example a school pitch may be able to accommodate one game each weekend, while a comparable Council pitch is able to support two. It is therefore important to take into consideration the quality of the pitches.
- 5.43 There is no formula for calculating the carrying capacity of pitches, as it is dependent on a wide range of factors such as weather conditions, age/weight of users, quality of players etc. However, through local knowledge, user surveys, site visits, interviews and an

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analysis of usage patterns from the previous seasons, it is possible to consider the approximate capacity of each pitch. We have reached conclusions on carrying capacity using these methods to provide a more realistic assessment of shortfalls and surpluses in St Albans City and District.

5.44 In calculating the carrying capacity of a pitch, the following should be considered:

- what proportion of games are cancelled on the pitch due to poor pitch condition?
- is the condition of the pitch declining over the season?
- what is the maintenance regime for the pitch at present?
- could the capacity of the pitch be improved by enhanced maintenance?
- to what extent are pitches required to accommodate training activity?

5.45 There are many issues that affect the provision of pitches in St Albans City and District, and the ability of pitches to sustain the assumed two games per week. In addition, the Council and their maintenance contractors recognise the requirement to manage the long-term life of the pitches. Current generic issues which affect the carrying capacity of pitches in St Albans include:

- demand for pitches, particularly adult football is at the highest level on a Sunday. If pitches are used on a Saturday too, there is no time for maintenance in between games, and pitches and their condition therefore suffer as a result.
- a number of pitches are located on Verulamium Park, which is an important historic site in the area. This restricts the amount and type of maintenance that can be carried out on these pitches.
- there are a high number of cancellations, particularly during the winter months when rainfall is high and drainage is poor. The majority of pitches do not have drainage systems, and therefore high rainfall forces cancellations. Where matches are playable, it would be to the detriment of the pitch to allow two games to take place, and quality of the pitch would deteriorate significantly over the season. Cancellations of matches causes a significant backlog of fixtures and increases pressure on pitches later in the season.
- many sites are dual sport sites, particularly between football and cricket, hence where seasons overrun, there are difficulties in providing both sports at these sites – hence there is a perceived requirement for some slack in the programming of pitches to ensure that there is potential to transfer users of these pitches to alternative venues
- school provision is often only available during term time, and league matches cannot be played on these sites during school holidays. In addition, many school facilities have inappropriate or insufficient changing facilities and are used for lessons during the week, reducing their capacity to sustain matches at the weekend.
- there is a large amount of unofficial use of sites within the district, which reduces the overall quality of the pitches and does not allow pitches to have the rest they require
- a number of sites within the district have no changing facilities, causing them to be unsatisfactory for use by a number of leagues.

5.46 In addition, it is important to take into account the importance of rest and recovery of pitches in order to maintain the quality and to prevent the longer-term deterioration of the pitches as a result of constant use, particularly on the larger sites. Reductions of capacity will therefore be applied in order to allow a degree of rest and the transfer of teams.

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- 5.47 Site-specific issues and potential improvements will be discussed in Section 6.
- 5.48 The audit was therefore revised, taking into account the above issues and the overall quality of the pitches. The weighting system used and the resulting audit are outlined in Tables 5.10 and 5.11 respectively. The standard PPM assumes that pitches are able to take two games per week. If in reality, it is only able to carry one, it is considered to be only half a pitch – able to take one game per week.

Table 5.10 Carrying Capacity for each type of pitch

Carrying Capacity	Multiplication Factor
Three matches (or more) per week	1.5
Two matches	1.0
One match per week	0.5
One match or less per fortnight	0.25

- 5.49 Synthetic hockey pitches are not affected by the conditions discussed above and have therefore been excluded. Grass hockey pitches are now no longer used for competitive senior matches and have therefore also been excluded. The development of the new football turf pitch at Harvesters FC will help to offset a significant amount of demand for mini and junior football.
- 5.50 A summary of the audit by area, taking into account the quality of pitches and allowing for rest and recovery is shown in Table 5.11. These figures are based on perceptions and are intended only to give an **indication** of the real situation. Only those pitches where comments were received have been adjusted, and all other pitches have been assumed capable of sustaining the required games. The full audit can be found in Appendix G.

Table 5.11 Summary of number of Community Use Pitches (taking into account carrying capacity)

Analysis Area	Nr of adult football pitches	Nr of junior football pitches	Nr of mini football pitches	Nr of cricket pitches	Nr of adult rugby pitches	Nr of junior rugby pitches
Redbourn and Surrounds	3	2	5	1	0	0
West Harpenden and Surrounds	12.5	4	0	4	4	0
East Harpenden and Wheathampstead	2	1	2	1	0	0
Sandridge	2	1	0	1	0	0
Central	11.5	2	2	6	5	0
Colney Heath	4	0	2	0	2	0
London Colney	6	2	4	0	3	0
Park Street and St Stephen	3	1	2	2	0	0
Total	44	13	17	15	14	0

- 5.51 The key issues to arise from Table 5.11 are as follows:
- the main numerical decrease has occurred in adult football pitches, where at many sites, capacity is reduced by up to 50% when taking into consideration the quality of

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pitches and the need for rest and recovery between games. The number available within the district has dropped from 66 to 44, indicating that quality is of concern at some sites within the district. Drainage issues arising at William Bird Recreation Ground resulted in a significant reduction in capacity within West Harpenden and Surrounds. In addition, a lack of changing facilities at four sites makes them an inappropriate venue for many levels of adult league football and hence they have been excluded. Due to current league guidelines, lack of changing has not been considered as a barrier for the provision of youth football at present.

- the overall quality of cricket pitches (from consultation) appears to be reasonable and there are few cancellations or pitches which are unable to sustain the assumed amount of games. The summer temperatures of the cricket season help to ensure that carrying capacity is not such a vital issue for this sport. Although some pitches could potentially sustain more matches, it is preferable that each pitch hosts only two games. Although football and cricket frequently overlap, football matches are often transferred in order to allow the cricket season to get underway.
- consultation indicated that all rugby pitches are of sufficient standard to sustain the allocated two games per week, and no club had suffered cancellations during the past season. This indicates therefore that rugby provision is of a high standard within the district.

5.52 The playing pitch model was reapplied using the amended pitch data contained in Table 5.11 which takes into account the quality and condition of each pitch in the area. The number of teams, team generation rates and population of the district remains the same.

5.53 Table 5.12 below summarises the provision of pitches in St Albans City and District, taking into account the factors that currently affect provision within the district.

Table 5.12 Provision of pitches by area, taking into account carrying capacity

PPM Summary table 2003/04 - Analysis Area	Adult Football	Junior Football	Cricket	Adult Rugby	Junior Rugby	Total pitches
Redbourn and Surrounds	1.3	-4.6	-2.2	0.0	0.0	-5.5
West Harpenden and Surrounds	2.0	2.8	-3.7	1.9	-4.5	-1.5
East Harpenden and Wheathampstead	0.6	-3.2	-1.1	0.0	0.0	-3.7
Sandridge	1.3	1.0	-1.1	0.0	0.0	1.2
Central	-7.1	-0.1	-0.6	0.8	-4.5	-11.6
Colney Heath	1.6	-11.4	0.0	-0.6	0.0	-10.4
London Colney	2.2	-5.5	0.0	0.9	0.0	-2.5
St Stephens & Park Street	-0.2	0.1	-1.9	0.0	0.0	-1.9
Total	1.7	-20.9	-10.6	3.0	-9.0	-35.9

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- 5.54 The key issues arising from studying the local scenario in St Albans City and District and reapplying the PPM methodology include:
- overall, undersupply has risen to equivalent to 35.9 pitches within the district. Seven of the eight areas show an overall undersupply of pitches with only Sandridge showing an oversupply.
 - the poor quality of adult football pitches is evident, as supply is now almost equivalent to demand, with a surplus of just 1.7 pitches
 - the largest undersupply is in the central area where there is a shortfall equating to 11.6 pitches. Of this shortfall, 7.1 pitches are adult football pitches. St Stephens and Park Street is the only other area to show an undersupply in adult football pitches, although with the exception of London Colney, none of the remaining areas highlight an oversupply of more than 2 pitches.
 - Colney Heath also has a large overall shortfall although this is due to a significant undersupply of junior football pitches
 - the significant shortfall of junior pitches and cricket pitches remains
 - quality of rugby pitches is good and all pitches are considered able to sustain a minimum two games per week, so there remains a degree of overprovision
- 5.55 Carrying Capacity data can also be used to forecast future supply. Table 5.13 below shows the situation in 2013 by area, taking into account the carrying capacity of pitches. This assumes that no upgrades have been made to any of the pitches, and they are able to sustain the same level of provision as they are today. It also assumes uniform participation across the wards in each analysis area and does not take into consideration where pitches are, or where teams are currently based. Consequently comparison with 2003/04 calculations should only be conducted at a district level.

Table 5.13 Provision of Pitches in 2013 by area, taking into account carrying capacity

PPM Summary table 2013	Adult Football	Junior Football	Cricket	Adult Rugby	Junior Rugby	Total pitches
Redbourn and Surrounds	-2.7	-2.5	-2.6	-0.5	-0.4	-8.8
West Harpenden and Surrounds	5.4	-1.7	-4.9	-0.1	-3.3	-4.6
East Harpenden and Wheathampstead	-1.8	-2.0	-1.4	-2.2	-1.8	-9.1
Sandridge	1.6	0.7	-1.4	-1.1	-0.9	-1.2
Central	-1.1	-8.1	-1.7	-0.5	-4.5	-15.8
Colney Heath	-5.4	-7.5	-1.3	0.3	-1.4	-15.4
London Colney	-1.5	-4.0	-1.9	1.5	-1.2	-7.1
St Stephens & Park Street	0.5	-1.0	-2.5	-1.2	-1.0	-5.2
Total	-5.0	-26.2	-17.7	-3.8	-14.5	-67.3

- 5.56 The district wide picture remains similar to the current situation, with an overall undersupply of pitches. The overall undersupply has increased to 67 pitches.
- 5.57 The analysis highlights a growth in the undersupply of adult football provision, and continued significant overall shortfalls in cricket and junior football.

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- 5.58 All areas of the district now show an overall undersupply of pitches with the Central and Colney Heath areas having the largest shortfalls, and Sandridge and West Harpenden and Surrounds the lowest.

The Impact of Non Secured School Provision

- 5.59 The Playing Pitch Methodology has highlighted an overall shortfall of pitches, particularly in junior football, cricket and rugby. There are numerous schools which currently have community use at their sites, but have been excluded from Playing Pitch Methodology calculations as a result of unsecure community use arrangements. In reality, this undersupply may not be as evident as it theoretically appears.

Mini Soccer

- 5.60 There are 17 mini soccer pitches within the district at present and 44 competitive teams have been identified, although consultation indicates that numbers are increasing monthly. Similar to most other local authorities, St Albans continues to experience significant growth in mini soccer.
- 5.61 Mini soccer is played in 15-minute matches and it is assumed that each pitch is able to sustain six matches.
- 5.62 The PPM does not cater specifically for mini soccer, however the same principles can be applied. As each pitch is able to accommodate 6 matches, this indicates a surplus of pitch provision within the District at present.
- 5.63 This is a crude method of calculation, hence it is important to consider provision at a local level to meet the needs of young children. Mini soccer provision will be discussed further in Section 6.

Summary

- 5.64 The PPM takes into account the supply of pitches (number of pitches), and the demand for pitches (number of teams). It measures the demand for pitches on peak days for each sport.
- 5.65 Calculations indicate that there is an overall shortfall of pitches in the district, despite surpluses of adult football and adult rugby. When taking into account carrying capacity of pitches (the perceived ability of a pitch to sustain two games per week), the overall shortfall increases, and the surplus of adult football is significantly reduced.
- 5.66 In order to calculate future provision and to assess current participation, team generation rates are calculated. Although team generation rates for rugby and hockey are relatively low, rates for cricket and football are high, indicating a relatively low latent demand.
- 5.67 Recommendations based on the above calculations and conclusions will be discussed in Section 6. Summaries for each sport can be found in Tables 5.14 to 5.18 overleaf.

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Table 5.14 Adult Football

<i>Adult Football</i>	<i>2003/04</i>	<i>2003/04 taking into account pitch quality</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2013 taking into account pitch quality</i>
Redbourn and Surrounds	1.3	1.3	-2.7	-2.7
West Harpenden and Surrounds	6.5	2.0	9.9	5.4
East Harpenden and Wheathampstead	2.6	0.6	0.2	-1.8
Sandridge	1.3	1.3	1.6	1.6
Central	5.5	-7.1	11.4	-1.1
Colney Heath	1.6	1.6	-5.4	-5.4
London Colney	3.2	2.2	-0.5	-1.5
St Stephens and Park Street	1.9	-0.2	2.5	0.5
Total Pitches	23.7	1.7	17.0	-5.0

Table 5.15 – Junior Football

<i>Junior Football</i>	<i>2003/04</i>	<i>2003/04 taking into account pitch quality</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2013 taking into account pitch quality</i>
Redbourn and Surrounds	-4.6	-4.6	-2.5	-2.5
West Harpenden and Surrounds	2.8	2.8	-1.7	-1.7
East Harpenden and Wheathampstead	-3.2	-3.2	-2.0	-2.0
Sandridge	1.0	1.0	0.7	0.7
Central	-0.1	-0.1	-8.1	-8.1
Colney Heath	-11.4	-11.4	-7.5	-7.5
London Colney	-5.5	-5.5	-4	-4
St Stephens and Park Street	0.1	0.1	-1.0	-1.0
Total Pitches	-20.9	-20.9	-26.2	-26.2

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Table 5.16 – Cricket

<i>Cricket</i>	<i>2003/04</i>	<i>2003/04 taking into account pitch quality</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2013 taking into account pitch quality</i>
Redbourn and Surrounds	-2.2	-2.2	-2.6	-2.6
West Harpenden and Surrounds	-3.7	-3.7	-4.9	-4.9
East Harpenden and Wheathampstead	-1.1	-1.1	-1.4	-1.4
Sandridge	-1.1	-1.1	-1.4	-1.4
Central	-0.6	-0.6	-1.7	-1.7
Colney Heath	0.0	0.0	-1.3	-1.3
London Colney	0.0	0.0	-1.9	-1.9
St Stephens and Park Street	-1.9	-1.9	-2.5	-2.5
Total Pitches	-10.6	-10.6	-17.7	-17.7

Table 5.17 – Adult Rugby

<i>Adult Rugby</i>	<i>2003/04</i>	<i>2003/04 taking into account pitch quality</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2013 taking into account pitch quality</i>
Redbourn and Surrounds	0.0	0.0	-0.5	-0.5
West Harpenden and Surrounds	1.9	1.9	-0.1	-0.1
East Harpenden and Wheathampstead	0.0	0.0	-2.2	-2.2
Sandridge	0.0	0.0	-1.1	-1.1
Central	0.8	0.8	-0.5	-0.5
Colney Heath	-0.6	-0.6	0.3	0.3
London Colney	0.9	0.9	1.5	1.5
St Stephens and Park Street	0.0	0.0	-1.2	-1.2
Total Pitches	3.0	3.0	-3.8	-3.8

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Table 5.18 – Junior Rugby

<i>Junior Rugby</i>	<i>2003/04</i>	<i>2003/04 taking into account pitch quality</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2013 taking into account pitch quality</i>
Redbourn and Surrounds	0.0	0.0	-0.4	-0.4
West Harpenden and Surrounds	-4.5	-4.5	-3.3	-3.3
East Harpenden and Wheathampstead	0.0	0.0	-1.8	-1.8
Sandridge	0.0	0.0	-0.9	-0.9
Central	-4.5	-4.5	-4.5	-4.5
Colney Heath	0.0	0.0	-1.4	-1.4
London Colney	0.0	0.0	-1.2	-1.2
St Stephens and Park Street	0.0	0.0	-1.0	-1.0
Total Pitches	-9.0	-9.0	-14.5	-14.5

SECTION 6
PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

Priorities for action and key recommendations

6.1 The research findings indicate that the following elements should be the basis for playing pitch provision within St Albans City and District:

- (a) protection of existing provision
- (b) enhancement of existing provision
- (c) overcoming identified deficiencies and planning for new provision
- (d) dealing with identified surpluses
- (e) future pitch management and key issues
- (f) developing local standards.

(a) Protection of existing provision

6.2 The overall current and projected future deficiencies identified using the PPM emphasise the need to protect existing areas of playing pitch land in public, private and educational ownership located in areas with a current or projected shortfall in particular sports.

6.3 The need to protect pitches is even greater when the carrying capacity of current sites is considered, since this results in reducing existing surpluses and increasing current shortfalls. The theoretical existing surplus of adult football pitches, for example, changes into a small shortfall.

6.4 It is also important to consider the location of pitches and the geographical spread of pitches across the district. A shortfall in one area of the district may be compensated for by nearby pitches in adjacent and accessible areas.

6.5 Undersupply and oversupply across the district as a whole, and in each individual area is summarised in Table 6.1 below:

Table 6.1 Summary of Pitch Provision – with and without carrying capacity

Analysis Area	Summary of Pitch Provision
Redbourn and Surrounds	There is an oversupply in adult football pitches (1.3), however there is an undersupply of both junior football (-4.6) and cricket (-2.2). The quality of pitches is relatively good and pitches are considered able to take two games per week. The carrying capacity of the pitches does not affect these findings.
West Harpenden and Surrounds	Harpenden and surrounds has an oversupply in adult football (6.5), junior football (2.8) and adult rugby (1.9) and an undersupply of cricket (-3.7) and junior rugby (-4.5). Taking into account the carrying capacity, the surplus of adult football pitches has reduced from 6.5 to 2.0 pitches and the overall surplus of pitches changes to a small shortfall (-0.6)
East Harpenden and Wheathampstead	There is an oversupply of adult football pitches (2.6) and an undersupply in both junior football (-3.2) and in cricket (-1.1). After considering the carrying capacity, the surplus for adult football pitches in the area is reduced to 0.6 and the overall shortfall of pitches increases to (-3.7)
Sandridge	There is an oversupply in adult football pitches (1.3) and junior football (1.0), however there is an undersupply of cricket (-1.1). The figures are unchanged by accounting for carrying capacity.

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Analysis Area	Summary of Pitch Provision
Central	The central area has an oversupply in adult football (5.5) and an oversupply in adult rugby (0.8) although there is an undersupply of junior football (-0.1), cricket (-0.6) and junior rugby (-4.5). Taking into account the quality of the pitches, the surplus of adult football pitches becomes a shortfall, equivalent to -7.1, and the total oversupply of 1 pitch becomes an undersupply equivalent to -9.8 pitches.
Colney Heath	An oversupply of adult football pitches (1.6) exists in Colney Heath although there is an undersupply of junior football pitches (-11.4) and adult rugby pitches (-0.6) in this area. Quality of pitches does not affect the figures.
London Colney	There is an oversupply in both adult football pitches (3.2) and adult rugby pitches (0.9). London Colney has an undersupply in junior football pitches (-5.5). Quality of pitches affects adult football slightly, bringing the surplus down to 2.2.
St Stephen and Park Street	St Stephens and Park Street has oversupplies in both adult football (1.9) and junior football pitches (0.1), however an undersupply occurs in cricket (-1.9). Taking into account the carrying capacity of adult football pitches in this area, the surplus becomes a small shortfall equivalent to -0.2.
TOTAL DISTRICT	Looking at the district as whole, there appears to be an oversupply in both adult football pitches (23.7) and adult rugby pitches (3). However, when taking into consideration the quality of the pitches in the district, the surplus of adult football pitches is reduced to the equivalent of 1.7. There are significant undersupplies in pitches in junior football (-20.9), cricket (-10.6) and junior rugby (-9.0).

Protection of unsecured sites

- 6.6 There are currently a number of school sites, listed in Table 6.2 below that have unsecured community-use agreements but are currently used by community teams. These sites play a vital role in the facilitation of pitch sports in the area and consideration must therefore be given to formally securing their future use.

Table 6.2 Unsecured school sites currently used by community teams

School
Verulam School
Roundwood Park School
Cunningham Hill Primary School
Camp JMI
Crabtree Junior School
Windermere JMI School

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- 6.7 The continuing development of the community-use of school playing fields and the joint development of community pitch facilities on education sites holds considerable potential, particularly for meeting any growth in demand from junior/mini teams and for providing artificial surfaces. This often needs financial commitment from local authorities to improve playing surfaces and capacity, providing or improving changing accommodation and possibly providing revenue subsidies to users.
- 6.8 It should be noted that it may not be appropriate to develop secured community use agreements with all schools, but the list provided should be the starting point for future exploration by the Council. These schools currently allow community use and are therefore likely to permit use in future years. Additionally, other schools within the district indicated that they would consider offering community use of their pitches, but currently no clubs use these sites. The Sport and Recreation Facilities Strategy also highlights the need for the Council to work more proactively with schools on developing sports facilities for use by the community.
- 6.9 There are a number of barriers that should be considered and overcome in order to successfully implement a community use strategy. The main barriers currently limiting use of school pitches in St Albans City and District are:
- poor drainage and maintenance of some school pitches
 - lack of consistent policy regarding community use of school pitches
 - access to appropriate changing facilities, with many schools having inappropriate changing facilities, or being unwilling to open up the facilities to outside users, particularly if changing facilities are located within the main school building. This may require the presence of a member of school staff, which may be undesirable and/or uneconomical.
 - schools need to ensure that pitches are playable for their primary purpose - curricular use. This restricts opportunity for community use of the site.
 - the use of school pitches can frequently be governed by the school term times. In addition, it is common for schools to change pitches from football to cricket for the summer term, which may not correspond with the requirements of community use teams.
- 6.10 These barriers can be overcome through detailed discussion and negotiation with schools. A formal community use agreement system would facilitate the hiring process of school facilities and ensure that they are more accessible and secured for community use. It is suggested that large schools are secured first, as they are more likely to already have suitable ancillary facilities.
- 6.11 Primary school sites primarily offer small-sided pitches. It is important that clubs have a local base (this is particularly important for younger players) and opening up such facilities will also be instrumental in developing school–club links. Small-sided play for children of primary school age has many benefits in terms of sports development. The majority of junior clubs in St Albans have now developed local bases, and with strong school-club links being a strategic priority of the FA, the opportunity to link with schools in future years should be continually developed. This opportunity should be seized to enhance junior development in all pitch sports. In addition, all rugby clubs are developing strong junior sections, particularly Old Albanians. Strong school-club links are therefore likely to become increasingly important in future years.

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- 6.12 Participation in junior sport is constrained by travel issues, and therefore the provision of local facilities, in addition to good public transport, is essential. Securing school sites for community use offers this opportunity.
- 6.13 Clearly there are management issues inherent in formulating and managing community-use agreements. Further advice and guidance can be obtained from **Educational facilities - management of community use** (Sport England, 1995), which advises on the opportunities to develop community use of school sports facilities, looks at the different management options and offers a practical checklist for managers.

It is recommended that negotiations are undertaken to formally secure a number of school sites for long-term community use. Initial agreements should be drawn up with schools that currently accommodate community teams at weekends.
Formal agreements must not compromise curricular physical education.

(b) Enhancement of existing provision

Greater emphasis should be placed in the future on improving the quality of pitches and ancillary facilities within the district.

- 6.14 Improvement of existing provision and sites will contribute significantly towards improving overall pitch provision within the district. Both the supply and demand analysis detailed in Sections 4 and 5, and consultation undertaken throughout the process identifies the need to improve the quality of a number of existing facilities. Improving the quality of sites will increase the carrying capacity of pitches and will improve opportunities for pitch sports within the district. Improvements made to the quality of supply in the district can also contribute to offsetting shortfalls within the district.
- 6.15 In general, analysis of the quality of pitches within St Albans City and District indicated that:
- the quality of football pitches is relatively poor, as illustrated by the significant decrease in capacity when taking into account the quality of pitches. Adult football pitches are particularly affected by poor drainage.
 - overall the quality of cricket pitches is perceived to be good, particularly pitches with dedicated facilities although some improvements in ancillary facilities are required
 - the quality of rugby pitches appears overall to positively meet expectations and there is little evidence of match cancellations.
- 6.16 All pitches which host league matches should meet the minimum quality standards for facilities set out by the relevant governing body, the NPFA and Sport England. In addition, all provision should comply with the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995. The Code of Practice is downloadable from <http://www.disability.gov.uk>.
- 6.17 A site-specific list of pitches/facilities requiring further investigation for upgrading/improvements (identified through site visits, consultation and user surveys) is presented in Table 6.3. **The list should form a starting point for the future development of sports pitch facilities within the district.** It is not a direct list dictating what should happen, and further detailed work should be undertaken before an appropriate improvement action plan is drawn up.

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Table 6.3 Pitch Specific Issues

Site name	Area in need of improvement	Analysis area
Harpenden Rovers FC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> parking is inadequate for the site pitch surface would be much improved if levelling was undertaken 	West Harpenden and Surrounds
Harpenden Town FC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> there is poor wheelchair access and paving is not level 	West Harpenden and Surrounds
William Bird	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> drainage installation required – the pitches are not free draining there are insufficient numbers of changing rooms – there are 9 football pitches and only 6 toilets and 16 changing rooms layout could be redesigned to include a second cricket pitch parking at the site is insufficient for the large number of pitches anti vandalism measures installation of mains water to enable Grounds Maintenance staff to water the pitches 	West Harpenden and Surrounds
Rothamsted Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> drainage improvements are a priority, particularly for the bottom pitch levelling of pitches would be of benefit and pitches are very exposed improvements to changing facilities are also required – particularly to enable junior and girls football parking is insufficient for the large numbers of pitches there is potential for this site to be redesignated as junior football 	West Harpenden and Surrounds
Folly Fields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> parking is insufficient changing is only in portacabins – provision of changing for the referee has been problematic levelling required 	East Harpenden and Wheathampstead
Marford Playing Fields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> drainage improvements required maintenance and cleaning of pavilion required – teams are currently expected to clean it themselves but do not 	East Harpenden and Wheathampstead
Pioneer Youth Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> levelling and drainage required changing facilities required – there is currently no provision for changing facilities at all 	Central

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Site name	Area in need of improvement	Analysis area
Verulamium Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> improved changing facilities required. Facilities at St Michaels end are very old and cold and there are no washing facilities upstairs there are no facilities for female changing the cricket pavilion is particularly poor and the kitchen is unused. there is potential to rearrange the layout of the pitches in order to accommodate an additional cricket pitch improvements to the quality of pitches are limited as the historical nature of the site prohibits many maintenance and development techniques 	Central
Foxcroft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> basic drainage and levelling needed here. there are no toilets and changing facilities at present 	Central
Cunningham Hill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> drainage improvements required there is only one room in the changing facilities and no showers – this is inadequate for three pitches there is a requirement for a referees' changing room parking provision is required potential to add a junior football pitch at this site. there are significant problems with vandalism and graffiti at this site 	Central
Marlborough Pavilion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> drainage installation required and levelling also required as the pitch is very undulating. poor goalmouth (although efforts have recently been made to reseed this). there are significant problems with vandalism at this site there is potential for the development of junior football at this site 	Central
The Wick	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> drainage improvements are required for the pitch to run at full capacity 	Central
Highfield Lane	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> development of junior facilities and 4 mini soccer pitches using a grant from the Football Foundation 	Colney Heath
St Albans RFC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> slight improvements to pitch playing surface and protection of pitches additional parking required 	Colney Heath
Cotlandswick	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> drainage improvements needed. evidence of some unauthorised usage. there are no changing facilities for the pitch that is not leased out access to the pitches is difficult and parking is insufficient 	London Colney

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Site name	Area in need of improvement	Analysis area
Harperbury Hospital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> further development of pitches and development of ancillary facilities and provision for girls – although the suitability and sustainability of this site need further examination. 	London Colney
Morris Way Recreation Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> there are no changing facilities for the junior and mini pitches pitch quality would improve significantly if recreational use was restricted or if the pitch or goal mouth was fenced off 	London Colney
Park Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> drainage improvements required changing facilities are poor and the referees' room is insufficient and needs improving. one of the football pitches is currently out of use, pitches are uneven and grass cover is poor parking is insufficient the cricket pitch is particularly poor despite efforts to improve the surface. Local vandalism has destroyed the quality of these pitches 	St Stephens and Park Street
Greenwood Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> there are insufficient changing facilities – there are only four rooms for three pitches there is potential to rearrange the location of cricket and football pitches on this site to enable the overlap of the cricket and football seasons to run smoothly work to the surface of the pitch is required – the top soil has worn away and there are sharp flints protruding from the ground as this is an old refuse site 	St Stephens and Park Street

6.18 In summary, priorities for enhancing provision should include:

- improving pitches and playing surfaces (including drainage, gradient and grass cover) that are often unplayable to increase the carrying capacity and reliability of pitches
- demolishing/upgrading/refurbishing changing facilities to ensure that standards are acceptable. Where possible, all sites should be equipped with changing facilities.
- ensuring that, where possible, sufficient facilities are available to allow multi sex and multi age group use of sites simultaneously
- where appropriate providing fences on pitches to restrict unauthorised and/or inappropriate use, which currently ruins pitches and reduces their capacity.

6.19 The above pitches require a combination of capital and revenue expenditure. Therefore capital funding sources and advice on maintenance regimes are also included later in this Section.

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(c) Overcoming identified deficiencies

- 6.20 Deficiencies in pitches arise when there is an absolute shortage and/or when existing pitches cannot accommodate existing demand, particularly at peak periods.
- 6.21 Some degree of spare capacity is an integral part of playing pitch provision, as is recognised by the Council in its pitch programming, management and maintenance programme. Rest and recovery of pitches is important for the following reasons:
- to accommodate latent and future demand for existing pitch sport teams
 - for the development/expansion of new pitch sports (such as mini-soccer/'tag' rugby)
 - to accommodate backlogs (created as a result of poor weather/drainage) and for rest and recovery periods
 - to enable training and casual activities.
- 6.22 The PPM suggests that there is currently an overall undersupply in pitch provision. Many pitches, particularly junior football, rugby and cricket, are currently sustaining more than two games per week. High team generation rates, particularly in football, indicate high levels of demand and therefore create shortfalls of provision within the district.
- 6.23 The following recommendations (Tables 6.4-6.6) set out additional provision, by sport, in line with the PPM. It must be acknowledged that the **recommendations for pitches are a minimum level of provision, based on a pragmatic approach to what may be feasible in the long-term and where the greatest latent demand/pressure for additional pitches has been identified. Recommendations for pitches take into account the quality (or carrying capacity) of existing pitches.** Much of the undersupply identified can be offset through the development of dual use agreements as discussed in (a), and the improvements of pitches, as discussed in (b).

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Table 6.4 Playing pitch issues and solutions: Football

Issue			Solution
Adult Football			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Effort should therefore be made to improve the quality of pitches across the district in order to increase the capacity of existing pitches. Improvements should be made to strategically important sites within the district (large sites where poor conditions generate large numbers of cancellations) in order to enhance supply. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> William Bird Recreation Ground Rothamsted Park The prioritisation matrix detailed later in Section 6 should be used to ascertain priorities. Improvements should also be considered on those pitches where the quality of pitches causes the greatest pressure. These improvements should follow those outlined in (b). <p><i>Central Area</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cunningham Hill Playing Fields Marlborough Pavilion <p><i>Park Street and St Stephens Area</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Park Street Recreation Ground A small, multi pitch site should be designated for the provision of women's football and improvements to the ancillary facilities on site should be made where appropriate. Once improvements have been made, it should be ensured that all pitches are rested at times during the season in order to maintain their quality. Provision should be made for training and casual use. Following pitch improvements, assuming that demand remains stable, there will then be an oversupply of pitches, although this oversupply is predicted to decrease by 2013. Consideration should therefore be given at this stage to redesignating some adult pitches as junior pitches in order to combat the shortfall of junior provision. Care should be taken to ensure that more than sufficient adult pitches remain. In the long term, overall shortfalls in the district should be offset by redesignating adult pitches.
PPM Summary Table – Adult football Analysis Area	Adult Football	Carrying Capacity	
1 Redbourn and Surrounds	1.3	1.3	
2 West Harpenden and Surrounds	6.5	2.0	
3 East Harpenden and Wheathampstead	2.6	0.6	
4 Sandridge	1.3	1.3	
5 Central	5.5	-7.1	
6 Colney Heath	1.6	1.6	
7 London Colney	3.2	2.2	
8 Park Street and St Stephens	1.9	-0.2	
Total	23.7	1.7	
<p>Oversupply in all areas of the district, largest oversupply in Areas 5 and 2.</p> <p>When taking into account carrying capacity, there is an undersupply in the central area and St Stephens and Park Street, and a small overall oversupply equivalent to just 1.7 pitches.</p> <p>Future oversupply (2013) is likely to decrease to 17 pitches, and when taking into account carrying capacity, this will become a shortfall of 5 pitches assuming no pitches have been developed.</p>			

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Issue			Solution
Junior Football			<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Develop community-use agreements with schools (with suitable pitches and ancillary facilities). Investment in appropriate school provision will be needed. Attention should be focused in Colney Heath and London Colney.2. If deficits remain, the possibility of bringing unused pitches back into service, marked out as junior pitches should be considered. These include the site at the Wick.3. 54% of the current undersupply is focused in Colney Heath. A new development is currently underway at Highfield Lane, which will form the base for St Albans City Youth Football Club. This will include 2 junior football pitches and 6 mini soccer pitches and will offset a significant proportion of the unmet demand within this area. In addition, the synthetic pitch at Harvesters FC should be used and programmed effectively to alleviate unmet demand in the area.4. Development of pitches at Harperbury Hospital in conjunction with St Albans Rangers FC would alleviate undersupply in London Colney, and would enable increased opportunities for junior football in this area. In addition, a junior pitch at Napsbury Hospital (London Colney) is planned for circa 2006. This could potentially house London Colney Cricket Club.5. Improve quality of existing pitches across the district in order to improve the carrying capacity and increase opportunities for junior football. In addition, consideration should be given to the provision of ancillary facilities to facilitate girls football.6. Seek any possible developer contributions via 106 agreements and consider developing multi pitch sites containing junior football pitches. Consider the re-designation of surplus adult pitches to junior pitches.7. Apply for further grant aid to the Football Foundation in partnership with local clubs and the FA for the acquisition of suitable land.8. Following improvements to adult pitches, redesignate adult pitch sites as junior sites.
PPM Summary table 2003 - Analysis Area	Junior Football	Carrying Capacity	
1 Redbourn and Surrounds	-4.6	-4.6	
2 West Harpenden and Surrounds	2.8	2.8	
3 East Harpenden and Wheathampstead	-3.2	-3.2	
4 Sandridge	1.0	1.0	
5 Central	-0.1	-0.1	
6 Colney Heath	-11.4	-11.4	
7 London Colney	-5.5	-5.5	
8 Park Street and St Stephens	0.1	0.1	
Total	-20.9	-20.9	
<p>Large overall undersupply of junior football in the district, focused in Colney Heath (Area 6) and London Colney.</p> <p>The undersupply is expected to increase by 2013 to the equivalent of 22.2 pitches.</p>			
Mini Football			<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Development at Highfield Park at the base of St Albans City Youth FC will contribute an additional 6 mini soccer pitches.2. Further development of pitches at Harperbury Hospital should be considered.3. Opportunities to secure the use of mini pitches at school sites should be explored, and dual use agreements should be negotiated.4. Future provision of mini soccer should be provided at dedicated sites, potentially combined with junior facilities to meet local junior club needs and to allow easy transition from mini to junior football.5. In the long term, the Council should aim to provide a mini pitch within each locality.
<p>As outlined in Section 4, there are 17 mini-soccer pitches secured for community-use in the district. At present there is a small surplus of pitches. Trends indicate however that participation in mini football will continue to increase.</p>			

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Table 6.5 Playing pitch issues and solutions: Cricket

Issue			Solution
Cricket			
PPM Summary 2003 - Analysis Area	Cricket	Carrying Capacity	
1 Redbourn and Surrounds	-2.2	-2.2	1. In the short term, the quality of Council-owned pitches should be improved to ensure that they are able to cope with the high demand. Pitches in Rothamsted Park and William Bird should be prioritised, as West Harpenden and Surrounds exhibits the highest levels of unmet demand. Work at the cricket pitch at Park Street Recreation Ground is also required.
2 West Harpenden and Surrounds	-3.7	-3.7	2. Pitches at Verulamium Park should be relocated within the park, in order to enable the additional pitch which is currently unmarked, to be remarked out and maintained. In addition, there is potential to rearrange the location of pitches at William Bird Recreation Ground to accommodate an additional pitch.
3 East Harpenden and Wheathampstead	-1.1	-1.1	3. Work underway at the Highfield Park site includes the restoration of the cricket area. This will contribute to reducing the shortfall of cricket pitches in the district. Developments at Napsbury may also offer opportunities to increase provision in cricket, and may enable London Colney Cricket Club to play at a ground within the boundaries of St Albans City and District.
4 Sandridge	-1.1	-1.1	4. Develop community-use agreements with schools (with suitable pitches and ancillary facilities) particularly in Redbourn and Surrounds, West Harpenden and Surrounds, East Harpenden and Wheathampstead and St Stephens and Park Street.
5 Central	-0.6	-0.6	5. Seek developer contributions to create new pitches.
6 Colney Heath	0.0	0.0	6. Redesignate surplus adult football provision following improvements to existing adult pitches.
7 London Colney	0.0	0.0	7. Explore grant funding through the Sport England Lottery Fund or NOF (in conjunction with local clubs and the Hertfordshire County Cricket Association).
8 Park Street and St Stephens	-1.9	-1.9	
Total	-10.6	-10.6	
<p>There is a large undersupply of cricket within the district. Many cricket pitches are currently required to sustain more than two games a week. This has not been indicated on the carrying capacity, as in an ideal scenario, each pitch would only be required to sustain two games per week. There are a large number of junior sides which also rely on adult pitches. London Colney Cricket Club plays outside the district and runs 8 teams, indicating that in reality, there is also an undersupply of pitches in London Colney.</p> <p>The deficiency of cricket pitches is expected to increase further by 2013 to the equivalent of – 17.7 pitches.</p>			

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Table 6.6 Playing pitch issues and solutions: Rugby

Issue			Solution
Adult Rugby			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure that the existing standard of provision is maintained. 2. Maintain close links between the Council and the clubs. 3. Consider redesignating some pitches as junior pitches in the short term, to ensure that there is sufficient junior provision.
PPM Summary Table 2003 - Analysis Area	Adult Rugby	Carrying Capacity	
1 Redbourn and Surrounds	0.0	0.0	
2 West Harpenden and Surrounds	1.9	1.9	
3 East Harpenden and Wheathampstead	0.0	0.0	
4 Sandridge	0.0	0.0	
5 Central	0.8	0.8	
6 Colney Heath	-0.6	-0.6	
7 London Colney	0.9	0.9	
8 Park Street and St Stephens	0.0	0.0	
Total	3.0	3.0	
<p>There is an oversupply of adult rugby pitches within the district. Rugby provision within St Albans centres around four clubs, there are at present sufficient pitches to cope with the number of teams.</p> <p>The surplus of provision will become a deficit of pitches by 2013 equivalent to 3.8.</p>			

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Issue			Solution
Junior Rugby			<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Develop community-use agreements with schools (with suitable pitches and ancillary facilities) particularly in Areas 2 and 5.2. Seek developer contributions to create new pitches, potentially in areas which do not currently have access to rugby pitches.3. Redesignate surplus adult football provision.4. Explore grant funding through the Sport England Lottery Fund or NOF (in conjunction with local clubs and the RFU).
PPM Summary Table 2003 - Analysis Area	Junior Rugby	Carrying capacity	
1 Redbourn and Surrounds	0.0	0.0	
2 West Harpenden and Surrounds	-4.5	-4.5	
3 East Harpenden and Wheathampstead	0.0	0.0	
4 Sandridge	0.0	0.0	
5 Central	-4.5	-4.5	
6 Colney Heath	0.0	0.0	
7 London Colney	0.0	0.0	
8 Park Street and St Stephens	0.0	0.0	
Total	-9.0	-9.0	
<p>There is an undersupply of junior rugby provision within the district. Currently it is assumed that juniors use adult pitches and mini rugby is played across adult pitches.</p> <p>The undersupply of junior rugby pitches is expected to rise by 2013 to the equivalent of 14.5 pitches.</p>			

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Table 6.7 Playing pitch issues and solutions: Hockey

Issues	Solutions
<p>There are two adult grass hockey pitches in the district. Changes in competitive hockey rules however mean that all matches must be played on synthetic turf pitches. These pitches can therefore be used for training but not matches – although this is unlikely due to the nature of the sport and a lack of floodlighting. There is only one synthetic turf pitch in the district available for competitive games. The other two facilities are not available for community use, and one has an inappropriate surface for hockey. Assuming that only one pitch is available for full use by the 25 teams in the hockey club (including junior teams) there is an undersupply of STPs equivalent to 1 pitch.</p> <p>There are a further eight teams who are based within the district but play outside the district as they do not have access to facilities within St Albans. This indicates that there is an overall undersupply equivalent to 2 pitches.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with sports clubs to ensure community use of facilities at Woollam Playing Fields. 2. Consider the development of further STPs within the district. Priority investment should concentrate in the Harpenden (Area 2), where there are large numbers of hockey teams currently playing outside the district. 3. Funding is available for an STP within 3km of Highfield Park. This opportunity should be taken in order to reduce the shortfall of hockey pitches within the district, and to offer the opportunity to existing hockey clubs to play their matches within the district. 4. Any additional STP should also be made available to service the needs of football club training.

Section 106 Agreements

It is recommended that contributions from developers for the provision of appropriate public open space should be sought under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 from all housing developments. Provision should also be made for subsequent maintenance costs. Required contributions should be linked to the local standards.

- 6.24 It is a long-standing and well-accepted principle that new residential developments should include the provision of appropriate areas of public open space. It is now formally accepted that all such development should actually contribute to the provision of open space, including playing pitches, which are required to meet the needs generated by the development and prevent deficiencies and shortfalls being increased.
- 6.25 Developer contributions should be related to the suggested local standard (see Table 6.9 on page 93) and should also take into account standards that will be set within the Green Spaces Strategy.
- 6.26 It is important that, in addition to firm pitch protection policies in local plans, there are clear, unambiguous agreements under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act (1990) between planning authorities and house builders to ensure that playing pitches are provided by the developer as a basic element of community provision for new residential areas and that appropriate provision is made for future maintenance. Most playing pitch provision would be off-site (ideally provision should be forthcoming from the developers of every new house) and should be vested in an appropriate authority (District Council or town council) **to secure it as public open space and prevent loss of facilities.**

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6.27 All local authorities that are involved in the housing development process are advised to refer to the 'Good Practice Guide: Providing for sport and recreation through new housing development' (Sport England 2001, <http://www.sportengland.org/whatwedo/places/sport-develop.htm>). This guide, for planners, sports development and leisure officers, developers and others involved in the housing development process, gives advice on how sport and recreation provision can successfully be achieved in conjunction with new housing. Emphasis is given to:

- pursuing a strategic approach at local authority level
- the need to link the corporate strategy and Best Value work of authorities with the process of negotiating new and refurbished sports facilities
- joint working between sport and leisure professionals and land use planners within authorities
- the provision of sound justification for what is sought from developers and other applicants for planning permission.

NB. Further guidance on the use of planning agreements to secure sport and recreation provision in new developments can be found in the Sport England publication 'Planning obligations for sport and recreation: a guide for negotiation and action'.

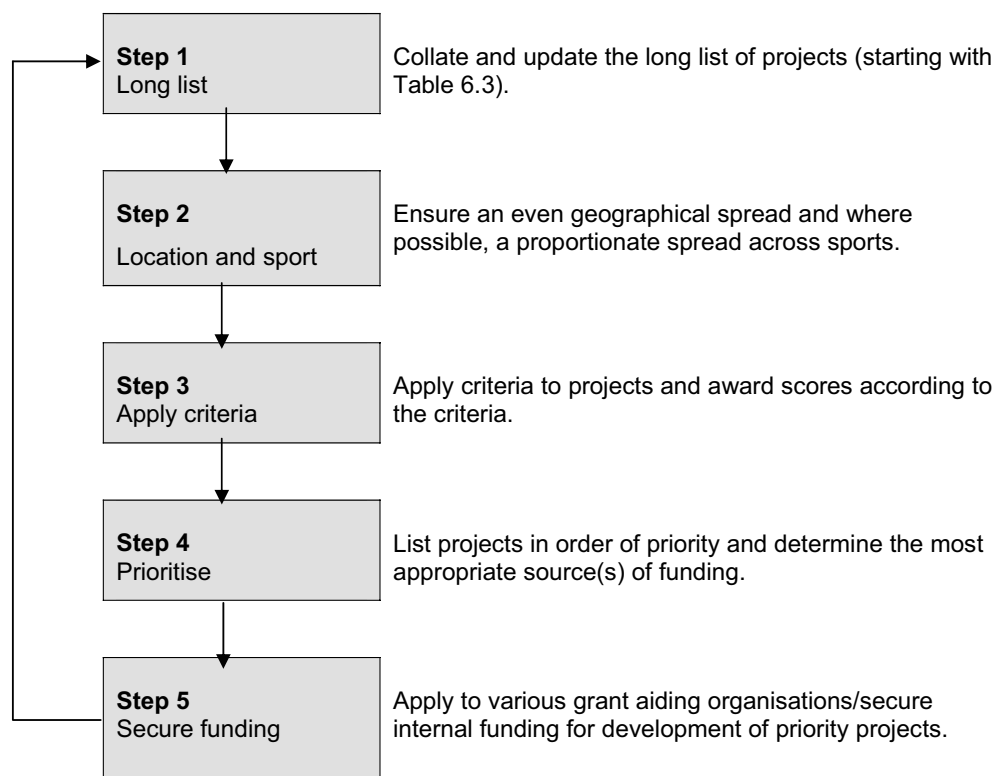
6.28 To ensure strategic development of all the potential projects in St Albans City and District, it is necessary to:

- give all partners, providers and users the opportunity to add to the list of projects started in Table 6.2 and ensure that it evolves as necessary throughout the course of this strategy
- develop a set of criteria against which projects can be judged, in order to assess which of the potential projects should be developed first
- make priorities against this criteria.

6.29 This Section of the strategy outlines a step by step process which will enable the Council to assess and prioritise projects, using defined criteria. A summary of the process is illustrated overleaf in figure 6.1.

It is recommended that the prioritisation process model is adopted by the Council to inform decisions on funding and investment on pitches

Figure 6.1 Prioritisation process model



Step 1: Long list	<p>The long list of projects (which has been started in Table 6.3) needs to be regularly reviewed and updated. It is suggested that the Council sends out this table to the County Governing Bodies and Leagues on an annual basis to identify sites in need of refurbishment, extension or improvement.</p> <p>This list should be updated annually.</p>
Step 2: Location and sport	<p>The Council should then analyse the long list to assess whether there is an even geographical spread and a where possible, a proportionate spread across the sports of Football, Cricket, Rugby and Hockey. The list should ensure that all areas are covered and should be linked to those areas with the greatest need.</p> <p>It is suggested that the number of projects on the list should proportionally reflect the number of teams of each type of sport within the district.</p>
Step 3: Apply criteria	<p>The criteria are split into the following headings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic need • Sports Development • Management and Sustainability • Equity and Child protection <p>Table 6.8 overleaf, outlines the questions to be asked of each project and indicates a scoring system to be applied.</p>

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Table 6.8 Prioritisation matrix

Area	Criteria	Score
Strategic need	Is the project identified in the National or County Governing Body strategy? (e.g. an FA Community Club or a Rugby Model Venue 3) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identified as regional or county priority Identified as local level project and meets criteria Not identified 	10 5 0
	Will the project contribute to a local or county development plan? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes No 	5 0
	Will the project be serving an area with a current shortfall of pitches? (ref tables 6.3- 6.6) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes No 	5 0
	Will the project be serving an area of deprivation? (this category will not apply to St Albans at present since no wards are identified as deprived) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non priority ward Rural ward (identified by Countryside Agency) and applicant able to make a case for rural deprivation Project serving a national top 20% IMD ward Project sited in a national top 20% IMD ward 	0 10 7 10
	Is the project sited within a relevant area based initiative? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Sited within a non-relevant area based initiative Sited within a relevant initiative, e.g. Health Action Zone Sited within a Sports Action Zone 	0 3 7 10
	Is the project sited within an area of high Team Generation Rates (TGRs) for the particular sport? i.e. is there significant potential for more players? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes No 	5 0
	Does the project provide a venue for activities within the Active Sports programme? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes No 	5 0
Sports Development	Does the project provide or have links with the TOP Sport programme? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes No 	3 0
	Does the project provide sports specific schemes in conjunction with Development Officers or County GB? e.g. Mini soccer, Community Rugby <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes No 	3 0
	Does the project have a mini, junior and youth development plan and programme, with reference to school-club links, local and national sports development programmes, and links to the County Governing Body? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes No 	3 0

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Area	Criteria	Score
	Does the project demonstrate how the facility will increase membership and community involvement? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • Partly • No 	7 3 0
	Does the project provide a programme for education and development for coaches, officials and volunteers? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, a comprehensive programme • Yes • No 	7 3 0
Management and Sustainability	Is there evidence of partnership working, community consultation and support from other organisations? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No evidence • Some evidence • Extensive partner and community consultation and support 	0 5 10
	Does the applicant have security of tenure? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None • Plans to buy or lease • Ownership or long term lease 	0 5 10
	Is the site under threat from development? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No, and protected from development • Has come under threat in the long term past (> 3 years) • Has come under threat in the past 3 years • Site currently under threat and the application would ease this 	0 3 7 10
	Does the project have a sustainable business plan? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, clearly demonstrating how ongoing revenue costs will be met • Yes • No 	10 5 0
	Do all sections of the organisation have representation on a management or organising committee? E.g. women, veteran, junior etc <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • No 	5 0
Equity, target groups and child protection	Does the project demonstrate an understanding of sports equity? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • No 	5 0
	Will the facilities and programmes appeal to target groups? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unlikely to appeal • Likely to appeal but no specific targeting • Project targeted at one specific target group • Project targeted at more than one specific target group 	0 3 7 10
	Does the project demonstrate a commitment to child protection? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, a written policy • Yes, statements in the application • No 	5 3 0
	Does the project have a health and safety policy? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • No 	3 0
MAXIMUM SCORE		111

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Step 4: Prioritise	Using the scoring system in Step 3, projects from the long list can be put into priority order, with the project scoring the most points becoming the highest priority. Projects can also be sorted according to the most appropriate source of funding.
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Step 5: Secure funding	The Council can then give their support for the various applications for funding. Projects which are unsuitable or not eligible for NOF funding may go forward to the Football Foundation or Sports Lottery Fund. Projects which fit the NOF criteria can be prioritised using the criteria in Step 3. It is likely to be easier to secure internal funding for projects which have been properly assessed in accordance with this Playing Pitch Strategy.
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Maintenance regimes

6.30 Any programme of improvements should bear in mind the following aspects:

- the standard of play at each site (including league requirements)
- the intended capacity of the site (number of games and training sessions per week and level of informal use)
- the need to encourage use by young people, women and other target groups through appropriate ancillary facilities
- facility specifications from national governing body strategies.

6.31 All pitches which host league matches should meet the minimum quality standards for facilities set out by the governing body, the NPFA and Sport England. In addition, all provision should comply with the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995. The Code of Practice is downloadable from <http://www.drcgb.org/InformationAndLegislation/Page331a.asp>.

(d) Dealing with identified 'surpluses'

6.32 The supply and demand analysis has identified an overall undersupply of pitches within St Albans City and District, however there is a small surplus of adult rugby, and a large theoretical surplus of adult football. When the current carrying capacity of pitches is taken into account, this surplus transforms into an overall shortfall.

6.33 It is important that deficiencies are addressed and current provision is protected. In addition, rest and recovery periods of pitches must also be accommodated, and a cushion of pitches should always be available.

6.34 Playing pitches are often under threat from other development, therefore, discussions should take place with Sport England (as a statutory consultee) to agree the most appropriate course of action for areas of oversupply. In St Albans City and District, the overall shortfall of pitches indicates that in the present situation, no action should be taken to remove any pitches.

6.35 In the case of a future oversupply as stated in PPG 17 Sport, Open Space and Recreation, *"for open space, 'surplus to requirements' should include consideration of all the functions that open space can perform"*, policy options should include:

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1. further promotion and marketing of the relevant sports in order to ensure that latent demand in the area has been genuinely accommodated
 2. a long-term view of likely trends in demography and sports over the next 20 years and of the long-term open space needs of the population
 3. reduce the number of pitches on a site to improve those remaining, for example by increasing their size, realigning them to improve drainage or landscaping. This will require a high degree of maintenance on those remaining pitches
 4. change of use, such as from adult to junior football and football to cricket pitches
 5. changing to other recreational uses: jogging, cycling, walking, golf etc
 6. designation of pitches as approved training areas. This would solve the problem faced by clubs around lack of training facilities
 7. if no other sporting demand is expressed, the land could revert to informal recreational uses: urban park, nature reserve etc.
- 6.36 Protection of playing fields should also be linked to the local standard, discussed later in this Section.

Strong evidence is required to justify the sale of any sports pitch. It is recommended that no pitches in St Albans City and District are sold at the present time, due to the current shortfalls and projected increasing demand, unless the proposed sale results in a net increase in playing capacity due to improved facilities or more pitches on another site.

(e) Sources of capital funding

- 6.37 There are several sources of financial aid and funding agencies to fund the long list of projects which have been identified throughout the strategy:
- i. **Football Foundation:** The Foundation is dedicated to revitalising the grass roots of the game, constructing modern football infrastructure creating facilities that are fit for the game in the 21st century. The maximum grant for a capital project is £1m. Ceiling grants will only be awarded in exceptional circumstances. The percentage level of support is variable (but is usually around 50%), but in exceptional circumstances could reach 90%. St Albans City Youth Football Club have recently been awarded a Football Foundation award for the development of their site at Highfield Park. This project is now underway, commencing with the restoration of playing fields and is due to be completed during 2004.

(See www.footballfoundation.org.uk for more information)
 - ii. **Rugby Football Foundation:** The RFU announced in January 2003 the commencement of a fund, through which community rugby clubs may apply for grants and/or interest free loans to fund capital facilities projects. This is available for clubs participating at Level 5 or below. At this stage, clubs can apply for £1,500-5,000, which must be matched (50:50) by clubs. Interest Free Loan Schemes are available of up to £100,000.

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- iii. **Sport England Lottery Fund:** SELF provides grants to all sports with the exception of football (see above). The maximum grant for a capital project varies considerably. The percentage level of support is typically no more than 65%. Sport England has now established regional sports boards and decision making on grants and awards has been delegated to these boards. Membership of these boards is drawn from sport, education, local government, health and business.

(See www.sportengland.org for more information)

- iv. **New Opportunities Fund:** Through the Playing Fields strand of the New Opportunities Fund, funding is available for the purchase or improvement of playing pitches (not clubhouses). There is no limit to the maximum grant that can be applied for, but the percentage level of support is typically no more than 65% (although it can be up to 95% in the most deprived wards).

(See www.nof.org.uk for more information)

- v. **Developers:** Through Section 106 agreements where appropriate
- vi. **Sponsorship:** it may be possible to attract sponsorship from local companies – all money generated from this approach should be re-invested into that particular site. Whilst this should be investigated, it must be noted that it is very difficult to gain and secure sponsorship money
- vii. **Public Private Partnership (PPP):** The Council enters into some form of contract for the private sector to operate and possibly build facilities
- viii. **Private Finance Initiative (PFI):** The Council should also explore this type of scheme which is a long term contract under which a contractor designs, builds/ refurbishes, finances and maintains (operates) facilities in return for payments linked to levels of usage/performance.
- ix. **The Lord's Taverners:** It may be possible for cricket clubs to obtain funding from this organisation. The Lord's Taverners is accredited by the England & Wales Cricket Board as the official national charity for recreational cricket. Grants are distributed on the recommendation of the ECB. The mission of the Lord's Taverners is to give young people, particularly those with special needs, a sporting chance. They achieve this by providing opportunities for young people, able bodied or with disabilities, under the age of 25 to participate in sport and recreation. Over the last 50 years they have given £30m away to schools, sports clubs & special needs organisations.

The annual disbursement of grant aid is broken down in the following way:

- 50% Youth Cricket
- 35% Specially Adapted Minibuses
- 15% Sport & Recreation for young people with Special Needs.

Of particular note is the potential to gaining grants for the provision of non-turf pitches.

(See www.lordstaverners.org for more information).

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(f) Improvements to pitch management

Pitch letting system

- 6.38 Current pitch bookings are controlled by a Council booking officer. Teams playing in local leagues have the opportunity to book pitches each season using a formal booking form, and teams are then assigned to an appropriate site.
- 6.39 Positive feedback has been received from a number of clubs regarding the improved condition of pitches following the decision to accommodate rest and recovery of pitches during the season. In addition, an agreement has been reached with leagues and the majority of clubs to reduce the length of games during the winter season in order to preserve pitches where possible. Cancellation data supports this positive feedback. Cancellations are left as late as possible in order to give the best possible chance of playing. Staff check pitches before both Saturday and Sunday, enabling a fair and sensible decision regarding cancellations to be made.
- 6.40 There is no overall lettings policy for sports pitches on school sites. At present, individual schools have the option of whether to accept a community booking or not, and the school also has control over both the terms of the agreement and the hire charges. Clubs must approach schools directly. A linked system with Council pitches may facilitate this system.

In order to improve the pitch booking opportunities within the St Albans City and District it is recommended that:

1. A central booking system including both Council and secured school facilities is established and coordinated by the Council. The Council should negotiate with schools with a view to taking responsibility for the booking of school pitches.
2. The assignment of teams to pitches and sites is reviewed.
3. The policy of rest and recovery of pitches is continued.

(g) Developing a level of provision

- 6.41 An important outcome from a playing pitch study is the development of local standards of provision, in accordance with national planning policy. Such standards will:
- underpin negotiations with developers over their contributions for new pitch provision to meet the needs of new residential developments
 - provide an additional overview of the general supply of pitches/level of provision
 - assist in protecting land in playing field use
 - assist in benchmarking with other areas/authorities.
- 6.42 The NPFA's Six Acre Standard states that for every 1,000 people, 1.2 hectares of playing pitches should be provided. This is a useful national benchmark and is often adopted as a local standard in the absence of a detailed local assessment.

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6.43 The current total population of the district is 129,005. The playing pitch methodology carried out for this study identifies that there is a total of 217.18 hectares of playing pitches in the District. This equates to a standard of 1.7 hectares per 1000. However, of this, only 108.3 hectares are available for community use.

6.44 Table 6.9 below shows how the demand for community pitches will increase by 2013.

Table 6.9 Calculation of a Local Standard

(A) Area of existing community pitches	(B) Shortfall for 2013 (hectares)	(C) Hectares required by 2013 (A+B)	2013 Population	Hectares required per 1000 population	Allowing 10% for rest and recovery
108.3	60.40	168.7	135,548	1.24	1.35

6.45 The Table indicates that there is an overall shortfall of 60.40 hectares of community pitches to meet the demand by 2013. This is reached by calculating the number of each type of pitch in which the district is deficient and offsetting this against any surplus pitch types.

6.46 These calculations indicate that a local standard of 1.24 hectares of community playing pitches per 1000 population is required. This standard does not take into account access to training facilities or any improvements made to the carrying capacity of pitches.

6.47 The level of new provision required to meet the shortfall indicated in the Table above depends on the amount of existing pitches which can be secured for community use. If the number of school facilities with secured community use can be increased then this will reduce the need for new pitches. Conversely, if the number of secured pitches decreases then the shortfall will increase and lead to a greater need for new provision.

6.48 This level of provision does not allow any spare capacity to allow rest and recovery of the pitch provision. A 10% allowance should therefore be made in addition to the accommodation of latent and future demand, increasing the demand for formal playing fields with secured community use to 1.35 hectares per 1000 population.

6.49 The figure of 1.35 hectares is for formal playing fields with secured community access. It does not include the provision of greens, tennis courts, athletics tracks or non-secured playing fields.

The role of all Partners

6.50 All organisations responsible for providing/developing pitch sports in the study area should consider the following actions:

- all providers in the public, voluntary, commercial and education sectors should strive to protect all existing areas of playing pitch land and open space
- providers should seek to retain a degree of spare capacity of pitches. This is an integral part of playing pitch provision and sports development, to accommodate latent and future demand and allow for rest and recovery of pitches.

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- the major deficiency throughout the study area is for junior football pitches. All providers should seek to address this shortfall through:
 - re-designation of adult pitches to junior/mini pitches
 - negotiation with schools to secure facilities for junior community use
 - development of changing and ancillary accommodation in line with FA and Football Foundation datasheets and guidance
 - conversion of pitches currently out of use to junior football facilities.
- shortfalls should be met firstly through the upgrading of existing facilities and pitches rather than the acquisition of new land. Provision can be increased through schemes which:
 - improve drainage of sites
 - improve changing facilities, including dedicated provision for women and children
 - improve access, spectator facilities and car parking.
- following quality improvement schemes, the second priority to meet shortfalls is to acquire by agreement or negotiate community access to private sports pitches and school sites, or to secure leasing agreements with existing landowners
 - partners should seek to secure funds from their own resources through re-designation of surplus adult pitches to open space, thus saving pitch maintenance costs

6.51 As a planning authority, the Council should seek to:

- support the principle that new pitch facilities should be developed, wherever possible, in locations where ancillary facilities are acceptable (in planning and licensing terms) in order that the fullest use can be made of the investment required and clubs can maximise revenue and become self-sufficient
- when determining planning applications, adopt the minimum standard of playing pitches as set out in this report
- consult with Sport England on any planning application relating to the potential loss of playing fields
- give favourable consideration to voluntary sports clubs wishing to relocate their pitches to a new site providing that all proceeds are reinvested in the club and that there is no assessed deficiency of overall open space in the area being vacated
- seek to enter Section 106 agreements under the Town and Country Planning Act for the provision of the pitches and ancillary facilities, and for subsequent maintenance, in new developments and, if appropriate, to provide compensatory facilities where existing provision is under threat.

6.52 The Council has a central role in planning, providing and co-ordinating provision of playing pitches in the district. The Council should also play a major part in assisting other providers (such as schools) to allow community access and maintain and enhance the quality of their provision. Our recommendations, outlined above are directed at the Council as the lead organisation in ensuring future provision of

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pitches is balanced, meets the needs of the community and is protected for future generations.

Summary

6.53 The findings of this playing pitch assessment are:

- there is a need to protect and enhance existing provision, overcome identified deficiencies, ensure quality management and apply local standards
- unsecured school sites currently used by clubs play a vital role in provision and the Council should begin negotiations with these schools to secure the future use of these pitches
- it is recommended that negotiations are undertaken to formally secure a number of school sites for long-term community use. Initial agreements should be drawn up with schools that currently accommodate community teams at weekends. **Formal agreements must not compromise curricular physical education.**
- greater emphasis should be placed on improving the quality of pitches and ancillary facilities. This strategy has identified 19 sites in need of improvement, which should be ranked against an agreed criteria to determine priorities for action.
- undersupplies currently exist, particularly in junior pitch provision
- suggested solutions for dealing with undersupplies include:

Sport	Solutions/recommendations
Adult Football: <i>small oversupply, except in Central area</i>	Improve quality of pitches across the district, particularly large sites and those with greatest quality deficiencies Designate a multi-pitch site specifically for women's football and develop appropriate changing facilities Ensure rest and recovery for all pitches Convert any remaining surplus to junior football
Junior/mini Football <i>significant undersupply, focussed in Colney Heath and Wheathamstead</i>	Develop community use agreements with schools Identify sites for development in Colney Heath, the area of greatest undersupply Ensure the new pitch at Harvesters FC is programmed for junior football Long term aim to provide mini and junior pitches in each area
Cricket <i>Large undersupply, predicted to increase</i>	Improve quality of Council owned pitches, with Rothamsted Park and William Bird priorities Remark the additional pitch at Verulamium Park Develop community use agreements with schools for club use
Rugby <i>Oversupply in adult; undersupply in junior</i>	Develop links with clubs to discuss pitch improvement/protection consider re-designating adult pitches to junior pitches in short term Junior rugby – encourage use of school sites Seek developer contributions Explore grant funding for pitch development
Hockey <i>Undersupply in STPs</i>	Shortfall in STP provision – develop 1 or 2 further STPs One pitch needed in Harpenden area for use by hockey clubs currently playing outside the district Develop Highfield Park pitch for football training and hockey

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- contributions for open space provision, including playing pitches and ancillary facilities should be sought from housing developments, with provision for maintenance costs
- the Council should use a prioritisation process model and apply set criteria to inform funding decisions
- no pitches in St Albans City and District should be sold unless the proposed sale results in a net increase in playing capacity due to improved facilities or more pitches on another site
- all available sources of grant aid and sponsorship should be explored to fund the improvements outlined in this strategy
- a local standard of 1.35 hectares of formal playing fields with secured community use per 1,000 population should be applied to future planning policy.

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Action plan

7.1 Whilst the Playing Pitch Strategy contains recommendations which are relevant to partner agencies and wider stakeholders in the district, the following table outlines an action plan specifically for St Albans City and District Council. The Action Plan brings together the key issues and recommendations of the Playing Pitch Strategy and identifies how St Albans City and District Council will address these. The Action Plan is divided into two distinct sections:

- Policy and Management Actions - which will be implemented according to the timescales identified in the plan; and
- Actions to enhance existing Council provision - which will be implemented in priority order but only when appropriate levels of funding become available.

Policy and Management							
Subject	Issue	Action No.	Recommended Action	Timescale For Completion	Lead	Partners	Resource Implications
Protection of existing provision	Deficiencies in playing pitch provision for specific sports in specific Analysis Areas	AN1	Develop policies for inclusion in the Development Planning Documents (Core Strategy, Site Allocations & Proposals Development Policies) covering the protection of existing or the development of new playing pitches in areas of current or projected shortfall	Apr 2009	St Albans City & District Council (Planning Policy Department)	St Albans City & District Council (Leisure Services Department)	Officer time

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Subject	Issue	Action No.	Recommended Action	Timescale For Completion	Lead	Partners	Resource Implications
	The Council does not have a model agreement to help secure community access to school and private sites	AN2	Develop a model community use agreement that can be used in negotiations with schools and private sites	Mar 2007	St Albans City & District Council (Leisure Services Department)	St Albans City & District Council (Legal Department) Sport England East Hertfordshire County Council (Children, Schools & Families)	Officer Time
	A number of school pitches across the district have unsecured community-use agreements but are currently used by local teams	AN3	Undertake negotiations to secure formal community use agreements with the following schools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camp JMI • Crabtree Junior School • Cunningham Hill Primary School • Roundwood Park School • Verulam School • Windermere JMI School 	Mar 2008	St Albans City & District Council (Leisure Services Department)	Hertfordshire County Council (Children, Schools & Families)	Officer Time and possibly new capital and revenue budgets

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Subject	Issue	Action No.	Recommended Action	Timescale For Completion	Lead	Partners	Resource Implications
	Limited or inaccurate information on which to base Council policy and management decisions	AN4	Ensure that the Playing Pitch audit is updated every three years to ensure that demand and supply information is up to date so that deficiencies or surpluses in provision can be monitored	Jan 2009	St Albans City & District Council (Leisure Services Department) St Albans City & District Council (Planning Policy Department)	Parish and Town Councils	Officer Time
Overcoming identified deficiencies	Poor access to existing school and private pitches across the district	AN5	Secure new formal community use agreements with schools that have appropriate facilities in areas where there is an identified deficiency in provision	Ongoing	St Albans City & District Council (Leisure Services Department)	Hertfordshire County Council (Children, Schools & Families)	Officer Time and potential capital and revenue budgets
	Quality of existing pitches and ancillary accommodation is poor and in need of improvement	AN6	See 'Enhancement of Existing Provision' section below	Ongoing	St Albans City & District Council (Leisure Services Department)	Grounds Maintenance Contractor	Subject to appropriate funding being identified

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Subject	Issue	Action No.	Recommended Action	Timescale For Completion	Lead	Partners	Resource Implications
	Lack of an adopted local standard for playing pitch provision, to negotiations with developers over contributions towards pitch provision to meet the needs of new housing developments	AN7	<p>a) Use guidance based on the Sport England Toolkit and national best practice as a material consideration in planning applications</p> <p>b) Develop office guidance for St Albans City and District based on local standards, Sport England Toolkit and national best practice</p> <p>c) Develop Supplementary Planning Documents on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local Standards for Playing Pitch Provision; and ▪ Developer Contributions towards pitches, sport and recreation facilities and green spaces <p>Focus should be on the development of multi-pitch sites</p>	<p>Immediate</p> <p>Mar 2007</p> <p>Apr 2009</p>	<p>St Albans City & District Council (Development Control Department)</p> <p>St Albans City & District Council (Leisure Services Department)</p> <p>St Albans City & District Council (Planning Policy Department)</p>	<p>Sport (East)</p> <p>England</p>	Officer time

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Subject	Issue	Action No.	Recommended Action	Timescale For Completion	Lead	Partners	Resource Implications
	There is limited success in securing formal community use agreements where new development is proposed that involves the provision of playing pitches	AN8	All developments that involve the provision of new playing pitches (or the re-provision of existing pitches off site) must have formal community use agreements in place prior to the granting of planning permission	Ongoing	St Albans City & District Council (Development Control Department)	St Albans City & District Council (Planning Department) St Albans City & District Council (Leisure Services Department) St Albans City & District Council (Legal Department)	Officer Time
	Existing changing accommodation in the district is unable to meet the requirements of the increasing numbers of women and girls who want to participate in pitch based sports	AN9	Designate a small multi-pitch development with ancillary accommodation as a focus for women and girls football in the district	Mar 2010	St Albans City & District Council (Leisure Services Department)	Developers Parish and Town Councils	Officer Time and Section 106 Funding
	Existing shortfall of 2 Synthetic Turf Pitches in the district	AN10	Subject to planning policy and the securing of a community use agreement, support the development of new Synthetic Turf Pitches at Harpenden Rugby Club	Ongoing	St Albans City & District Council (Leisure Services Department)	Harpenden Rugby Club	Officer Time

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Subject	Issue	Action No.	Recommended Action	Timescale For Completion	Lead	Partners	Resource Implications
		AN11	Develop a new Synthetic Turf Pitch with floodlighting within a 3 mile radius of Highfield Park (the preferred site for the development is Cotlandswick Open Space in London Colney)	Apr 2009	St Albans City & District Council (Leisure Services Department)	St Albans City & District Council (Legal Department) St Albans City & District Council (Development Control Department)	Officer Time and existing Section 106 funding
	Shortfall of junior pitches in a number of analysis areas	AN12	Re-designated adult pitches, in areas of over provision, as junior pitches following pitch improvements to existing sites or the development of new sites (from Section 106 contributions)	Ongoing	St Albans City & District Council (Leisure Services Department)	Parish and Town Councils Grounds Maintenance Contractor	Officer Time and Existing Budgets
	No dedicated facility for rugby league in the district	AN13	Explore opportunities to provide an appropriate site with dedicated facilities for rugby league in the district	Ongoing	St Albans City & District Council (Leisure Services Department)	St Albans Centurions	Officer Time
	Funding to deliver improvements to existing pitch provision	AN14	Develop an external funding strategy to help deliver the pitch improvements identified in the 'Enhancement of Existing Provision' section below	Dec 2006	St Albans City & District Council (Leisure Services Department)	-	Officer Time

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Subject	Issue	Action No.	Recommended Action	Timescale For Completion	Lead	Partners	Resource Implications
Dealing with Identified Surpluses	When carrying capacity is taken into account, there is an overall undersupply of playing pitch provision in the district	AN15	Approval is not given for any pitches with secured community access in the district to be sold (unless the proposed sale results in a net increase in playing capacity due to improved provision or more pitches on another site)	Ongoing	St Albans City & District Council (Development Control Department)	St Albans City & District Council (Planning Department) St Albans City & District Council (Leisure Services Department) Parish and Town Councils Sport England (East)	Officer Time
	Foxcroft Playing Field is a one pitch site with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drainage problems; • Levelling required; • No changing provision; and • No on-site parking 	AN16	When improvements have been made to multi-pitch sites or new provision has been developed, cease use of the pitch for competitive play and investigate alternative uses in line with the findings of the Green Spaces Strategy	TBC	St Albans City & District Council (Leisure Services Department)	St Albans City & District Council (Planning Department)	Officer Time
	The Wick is a one pitch site with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drainage problems 	AN17	When improvements have been made to multi-pitch sites or new provision has been developed, cease use of the pitch and investigate alternative uses in line with the findings of the Green Spaces Strategy	TBC	St Albans City & District Council (Leisure Services Department)	St Albans City & District Council (Planning Department)	Officer Time

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Subject	Issue	Action No.	Recommended Action	Timescale For Completion	Lead	Partners	Resource Implications
Future Management of Playing Pitches	Improve communication between the Council and pitch users	AN18	Hold at least one formal meeting per year with league secretaries and club representatives to discuss issues and agree options for action	Ongoing	St Albans City & District Council (Leisure Services Department)	Grounds Maintenance Contractor Parish and Town Councils	Officer Time
	Unavailability of football pitches or alternative areas for training or casual use	AN19	Explore the provision of new training areas for pitch based sports in green spaces across the districts	Mar 2007	St Albans City & District Council (Leisure Services Department)	Parish and Town Councils Grounds Maintenance Contractor	Officer Time and Existing Budgets
	Lack of integration of pitch booking across providers	AN20	a) Review the current pitch booking system b) Implement, as an integral part of the new grounds maintenance contract, e-enabled booking and a clear policy on the assignment of pitches	Mar 2007 Dec 2006	St Albans City & District Council (Leisure Services Department)	Hertfordshire County Council (Children, Schools & Families) Parish and Town Councils Grounds Maintenance Contractor	Officer Time and Existing Budgets
	Limited linkage between the quality of provision and the price of hire	AN21	Review the current pricing policy and as an integral part of the new grounds maintenance contract implement a new pricing structure based on the quality of provision	Dec 2006	St Albans City & District Council (Leisure Services Department)	Grounds Maintenance Contractor	Officer Time and Existing Budgets

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Subject	Issue	Action No.	Recommended Action	Timescale For Completion	Lead	Partners	Resource Implications
	Perceived deterioration in pitch quality at some sites and no existing mechanism to evaluate the management and maintenance of pitches	AN22	As an integral part of the new grounds maintenance contract, develop key performance indicators for evaluating the management and maintenance of playing pitches	Dec 2006	St Albans City & District Council (Leisure Services Department)	Grounds Maintenance Contractor	Officer Time
	Vandalism and security of playing pitches and ancillary accommodation	AN23	As an integral part of the new grounds maintenance contract, develop standards for responding to and rectifying minor vandalism and security issues at playing pitch sites (i.e. graffiti etc)	Dec 2006	St Albans City & District Council (Leisure Services Department)	Grounds Maintenance Contractor	Officer Time
	Lack of awareness of facilities and opportunities for playing pitch based sports in the district	AN24	Redevelop the district council's website to provide a dedicated resource for identifying facilities and opportunities for playing pitch based sports in the district	Mar 2007	St Albans City & District Council (Leisure Services Department)	-	Officer Time
	Unofficial use of playing pitches which leads to deterioration in pitch quality	AN25	Investigate measures to deter unofficial use of playing pitches	Dec 2006	St Albans City & District Council (Leisure Services Department)	Grounds Maintenance Contractor	Officer Time

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Subject	Issue	Action No.	Recommended Action	Timescale For Completion	Lead	Partners	Resource Implications
	Dog fouling on playing pitches	AN26	Investigate measures to deter dog fouling on playing pitches including the introduction of dog fouling byelaws, signage and dog free zones	Mar 2008	St Albans City & District Council (Leisure Services Department)	Grounds Maintenance Contractor	Officer Time
	Limited knowledge of pitch sub-structures to inform investment maintenance regimes	AN27	<p>a) Commission a detailed technical soil assessment for all council playing pitch sites</p> <p>b) Implement, as an integral part of the new grounds maintenance contract, a programme of pitch and soil surveys</p>	<p>Starting Mar 2007</p> <p>Biennial starting in 2007</p>	St Albans City & District Council (Leisure Services Department)	Grounds Maintenance Contractor	Officer Time and Existing Budgets

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Enhancement of Existing Council Provision						
Site	Issue	Action No.	Recommended Action	Priority	Lead	Resource Implications
Cunningham Hill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drainage problems; • Inadequate changing provision with no showers; • No officials changing facilities; • Parking required; and • Vandalism and graffiti 	AN28	Implement a project to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a replacement changing pavilion with adequate changing provision and on-site parking; and • Improve pitch surface and drainage infrastructure (based on the results of the technical soil assessment) • Also see Action Number 23 regarding vandalism and graffiti 	1	St Albans City & District Council (Leisure Services Department)	Officer Time, Section 106 Funding and other External Funding
Marlborough Pavilion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drainage problems; • Levelling required; • Poor goalmouth; • Space for a junior pitch; and • Vandalism and graffiti 	AN29	Implement a project to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce junior pitches on the site; and • Improve pitch surface and drainage infrastructure (based on the results of the technical soil assessment) • Also see Action Number 23 regarding vandalism and graffiti 	3	St Albans City & District Council (Leisure Services Department)	Officer Time, Section 106 Funding and other External Funding

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Site	Issue	Action No.	Recommended Action	Priority	Lead	Resource Implications
Park Street Recreation Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drainage problems; Poor grass cover and levelling required; Inadequate changing provision; Inadequate officials changing; and Quality of cricket pitch is particularly poor 	AN30	Implement a project to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a replacement changing pavilion with adequate changing provision and on-site parking; and Improve pitch surface and drainage infrastructure (based on the results of the technical soil assessment) 	3	St Albans City & District Council (Leisure Services Department)	Officer Time, Section 106 Funding and other External Funding
Rothamsted Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drainage problems (particularly with the lower pitch); Levelling required; Improvements to changing provision required; and Inadequate parking 	AN31	Implement a project to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a replacement pavilion or pavilions with adequate on-site parking which meets the needs of both football and cricket users; and Improve pitch surface and drainage infrastructure (based on the results of the technical soil assessment) 	2	St Albans City & District Council (Leisure Services Department)	Officer Time, Section 106 Funding and other External Funding
Verulamium Park and Westminster Lodge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved changing facilities required as they are not appropriate for the number of pitches and seniors and junior of both sexes (the cricket pavilion is particularly poor); Improvements to the quality of pitches is limited due to the archaeological importance of the site; and Potential to rearrange the layout of the pitches in order to accommodate an additional cricket pitch 	AN32	As part of the redevelopment of Westminster Lodge implement a project to develop new purpose built changing facilities for football users	1	St Albans City & District Council (Leisure Services Department)	Officer Time, Section 106 Funding and other External Funding

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Site	Issue	Action No.	Recommended Action	Priority	Lead	Resource Implications
William Bird	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient changing rooms; • Insufficient parking; • No mains water to enable grounds maintenance staff to water the pitches; • Pitches are not free draining; • Potential to rearrange the layout of the pitches in order to accommodate an additional cricket pitch; and • Vandalism 	PPS33	<p>Make William Bird a strategic playing pitch site for the district by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving pitch surface and drainage infrastructure (based on the results of the technical soil assessment); • Improve on-site parking provision; and • Improving or replacing the pavilion so it fully meets the needs of the site 	1	St Albans City & District Leisure Services Department	Officer Time, Section 106 Funding and other External Funding

APPENDIX A

NPFA SIX ACRE STANDARD CALCULATIONS BY ANALYSIS AREA FOR 2003/04

Six-Acre Standard and Area Calculations

1. As with other national 'standards', it has limitations that have been widely acknowledged. Most importantly, the simplicity of its approach means that local considerations are often overlooked (e.g. local league rules, the presence of synthetic turf pitches, pitch quality, pitch capacity, standard of changing provision etc). In addition:
 - it is not related to the area's demographic profile
 - it is not an estimate of likely demand
 - it is not an estimate of the number of pitches required to serve an area.
2. The Six Acre Standard is a broad statement of what the NPFA regards as the desirable area of land required for playing space. Any decision-making and policy development should arise solely from the Playing Pitch Methodology. As stated in 'Planning Policy Guidance (PPG)17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation':

"The Government believes that open space standards are best set locally. National standards cannot cater for local circumstances, such as differing demographic profiles and the extent of existing built development in an area."

Pitch Area Calculations

3. Standard sizes and areas for playing pitches published in The Six Acre Standard (NPFA, 2001) have been applied for the purposes of calculating the area. It has been assumed that pitches throughout the district are consistent with these standard measurements.
4. These sizes include the pitch itself, safety margins and side movement allowance. **They do not include areas of open space used for other sports and recreational purposes** (i.e. courts, greens, golf courses, picnic areas, heathland, woodland etc) or ancillary facilities (e.g. changing accommodation, car-parks etc). These will be included within the Green Space Strategy, which will be produced under separate cover. The total estimated area of pitches by sport (excluding lacrosse and synthetic pitches) is shown in the table below.

Table A1 - Total area of *all pitches* by sport in St Albans in 2003/04 (*excluding lacrosse and full sized STPs*)

Sport	NPFA Pitch Areas (hectares)	Assumed area	Number of pitches	Area of pitches (hectares)
Senior Football	0.82-0.9	0.86	101	86.86
Junior Football	0.4-0.6	0.50	47	23.50
Mini-soccer	0.22	0.22	31	6.82
Cricket	1.4-1.6	1.50	34	51.00
Adult Rugby	1.26	1.26	27	34.02
Junior Rugby	0.8	0.80	6	4.80
Hockey	0.6	0.60	17	10.20
Total			263	217.20

5. The table below shows the total area of the district with playing pitches secured for community use. As can be seen, by comparing Tables A1 and A2, 50% of the playing pitch area in the district is secured for community use.

Table A2 - Total area of *Community Pitches* by sport in St Albans in 2003/04 (*excluding lacrosse and full sized STPs*)

Areas - hectares	Senior football	Junior football	Mini football	Cricket	Adult rugby	Junior rugby	Hockey
Redbourn and surrounds	2.6	1.0	1.1	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
West Harpenden and surrounds	14.6	2.0	0.0	6.0	5.0	0.0	0.0
East Harpenden and Wheathampstead	3.4	0.5	0.4	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sandridge	1.7	0.5	0.0	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Central	20.6	1.0	0.4	9.0	6.3	0.0	1.2
Colney Heath	3.4	0.0	0.4	0.0	2.5	0.0	0.0
London Colney	6.0	1.0	0.9	0.0	3.8	0.0	0.0
Park Street and St Stephens	4.3	0.5	0.4	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	56.8	6.5	3.7	22.5	17.6	0.0	1.2

6. In addition to pitches detailed above, there are two lacrosse pitches at St Albans High School for girls. These pitches are not available for public use at present, and there are no public lacrosse pitches. The three STPs located within St Albans District are also excluded from this analysis.

APPENDIX B

SPORT AND LEISURE REPORT

Sport and Leisure Potential

Report For: PMP Consultancy

Defined Area: St Albans District

Central Postcode: N/A

Total Population Aged Over 18

129126

	Results from area	Results as % of area	Results as % of GB	Index (ave.=100)	Index difference
Angling	4959	3.8%	6.1%	63	-37
Cycling	22531	17.4%	14.6%	119	19
Boats And Yachting	5572	4.3%	3.8%	112	12
Fitness/Health	31593	24.5%	19.7%	124	24
Football	28593	22.1%	19.7%	113	13
Golf	20633	16.0%	12.0%	133	33
Motorcycling	3674	2.8%	4.1%	69	-31
Motor Sport	11939	9.2%	9.7%	96	-4
Riding	4714	3.7%	2.9%	127	27
Rowing	551	0.4%	0.5%	92	-8
Rugby	12613	9.8%	8.0%	122	22
Running/Jogging	8817	6.8%	4.9%	140	40
Scuba Diving	1837	1.4%	1.7%	85	-15
Skiing	9306	7.2%	3.2%	225	125
Snooker/Pool	11021	8.5%	11.1%	77	-23
Snowboarding	980	0.8%	0.6%	133	33
Squash	6184	4.8%	3.1%	154	54
Swimming	31409	24.3%	23.0%	106	6
Tennis	13041	10.1%	5.1%	198	98
Watersports	4837	3.7%	3.0%	124	24
No Sport	39613	30.7%	35.4%	87	-13

Demographic Profile

	Results from area	Results as % of area	Results as % of GB	Index (ave.=100)	Index difference	
Number of Children Per Household (aged under 18)						
One	18123	14.0%	13.9%	101	1	
Two	19654	15.2%	14.9%	102	2	
Three	4714	3.7%	4.6%	79	-21	
Four	796	0.6%	1.0%	59	-41	
Five	122	0.1%	0.2%	46	-54	
Six or more	245	0.2%	0.0%	2238	1838	
No Children	85472	66.2%	65.3%	101	1	
Number of Adults Per Household (aged 18 and						
One	13409	10.4%	11.8%	88	-12	
Two	91288	70.7%	71.4%	99	-1	
Three	15980	12.4%	12.1%	103	3	
Four	7286	5.6%	4.0%	140	40	
Five	1041	0.8%	0.6%	133	33	
Six	122	0.1%	0.1%	86	-14	
Seven or more	0	0.0%	0.1%	0	-300	
Social Class						
AB	66308	51.4%	30.7%	167	67	
C1	38083	29.5%	13.2%	223	123	
C2	9735	7.5%	14.8%	51	-49	
D	3612	2.8%	7.3%	38	-62	
E	11388	8.8%	15.1%	58	-42	
Cars in Household						
1 car	40532	31.4%	41.9%	75	-25	
2 cars	50144	38.8%	26.9%	144	44	
3 or more cars	12490	9.7%	5.2%	186	86	
No cars	25960	20.1%	25.0%	81	-19	
Family Income						
Less Than £5k	6429	5.0%	8.1%	61	-39	
£5-£10k	15245	11.8%	15.5%	76	-24	
£10-£15k	14082	10.9%	16.0%	68	-32	
£15-£20k	11755	9.1%	14.6%	63	-37	
£20-£25k	12796	9.9%	13.5%	73	-27	
£25-£30k	14021	10.9%	11.1%	97	-3	
£30-£40k	18980	14.7%	11.0%	134	34	
£40-£50k	13960	10.8%	5.2%	206	106	
Interest	£50-£60k	9368	7.3%	2.5%	286	186
Over £60k	12490	9.7%	2.5%	394	294	

APPENDIX C

EXAMPLE QUESTIONNAIRE SENT TO CLUBS AND SCHOOLS

A Playing Pitch Strategy for St Albans City and District

Q1. Please state the full name of your sports club:

Q2. Which sport(s) does your club participate in?

Football
Cricket

☐
☐

Rugby League
Rugby Union

☐
☐

Hockey
Other (Please state):

☐

Q3. How many members does your club have?

Male
Female

☐
☐

Under 18

☐
☐

Adult

☐
☐

Veteran

Q4. Over the last 5 years has membership...

Increased

☐

Decreased

☐

Remained static

☐

Q5. How many teams does your club have?

Male
Female
Mixed

☐
☐
☐

Mini

☐
☐
☐

Junior

☐
☐
☐

Adult

Veteran (over 45)

Q6. Which leagues/ competitions do your teams participate in? (if possible, please attach a fixture list)

Q7. Please give contact name and telephone number for the above league/ competition organisers:

Q8. Does your club currently have a written development plan?

Yes
No

☐
☐

(please enclose a copy)

Q9. Which of the following issues are currently problematic for your club? (please tick all that apply)

- ☐ Lack of internal funding (subs/ fund-raising)
- ☐ Lack of external funding (parish council, governing bodies etc)
- ☐ Lack of appropriate local facilities
- ☐ Access difficulties for members (cost, lack of public transport etc)
- ☐ Lack of information about local facilities/ services
- ☐ Poor/ No relationship with local clubs (facility usage/ exit routes etc)
- ☐ Lack of voluntary assistance (committee members/ coaches etc)
- ☐ Membership recruitment/ retention
- ☐ Other. Please specify

Q10. Please complete the table below, listing the venue(s) that your club use for home matches and training:
(example responses are shown in *italic*)

MATCHDAY VENUES

Name and address	Postcode	Facility details (size/ surface/ ancillary)	Hired/ leased/ owned	If hired/ leased, from who?	Days/ times when used
Alton Recreation Ground, <i>Kings Road, Alton</i>	GU99 1AB	<i>2 junior grass football pitch, with changing rooms</i>	<i>Leased</i>	<i>Alton Parish Council</i>	<i>Sunday 10-12am Tuesday 6-7pm</i>
1					
2					
3					

OUTDOOR TRAINING VENUES

Name and address	Postcode	Facility details (size/ surface/ ancillary)	Hired/ leased/ owned	If hired/ leased, from who?	Days/ times when used
Alton School, <i>Queens Road, Alton</i>	GU99 1CD	<i>1 junior grass football pitch, no changing rooms</i>	<i>Hired</i>	<i>Alton School</i>	<i>Tuesday 6-7pm</i>
1					
2					
3					

INDOOR TRAINING VENUES

Name and address	Postcode	Facility details (size/ surface/ ancillary)	Hired/ leased/ owned	If hired/ leased, from who?	Days/ times when used
Alton Leisure Centre, <i>Prince Road, Alton</i>	GU99 1EF	<i>3 court sports hall, with changing rooms</i>	<i>Hired</i>	<i>Alton Leisure Centre</i>	<i>Thursdays 8-10pm</i>
1					
2					
3					

Q11. Are the matchday pitches listed in Q10 your preferred location to play home matches?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	If NO, please state your preferred location (site name and address)
No	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Q12. How many matches do you play on your main pitch each season?

Q13. How many games were cancelled due to the pitch condition last season (excluding frozen pitches)?

Q14. How many matches per week do you feel that your main match pitch can adequately sustain?

Q15. Does your club train on your main match pitch?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	If YES, for how many hours per week?
No	<input type="checkbox"/>	If NO, do you train on another grass pitch? If so, where

--	--

Q16. What are the three BEST pitches you have played on this season (home or away)? Please state site name and address:

1	
2	
3	

Q17. What are the three WORST pitches you have played on this season (home or away)? Please state site name and address:

1	
2	
3	

Q18. Please rate the following aspects of your main match pitch:

- Firmness of surface
- Grip underfoot
- Bounce of ball on pitch
- Evenness of pitch
- Length of grass
- Grass cover
- Posts and sockets
- Line markings
- Free from litter, dog fouling etc
- Changing facilities
- Showers - clean, hot, plenty of water
- Parking
- Value for money
- Overall quality of pitch

Good	<div></div>	Acceptable	<div></div>	Poor	<div></div>
------	-------------	------------	-------------	------	-------------

Q19. What future plans does your club have?

- Increase the number of members
- Expand the range of facilities provided
- Refurbish existing facilities
- Relocation to different premises
- None
- Other - please state

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Q20. In which town/ village do the majority of your players reside?

Q21. In your opinion is pitch provision (quality and quantity) in St Albans City and District sufficient to meet your clubs needs?

Please return this questionnaire in the FREEPOST envelope provided by no later than Wednesday 22nd October. Many thanks for your assistance

APPENDIX D

PLAYING AUDIT

Clarence Park	St Albans District Council	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	Clarence	5
Cunningham Hill Playing Fields	St Albans District Council	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Cunningham	5
Foxcroft Playing Field	St Albans District Council	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Cunningham	5
Francis Bacon School	Hertfordshire County Council	5	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	Cunningham	5
Marlborough Pavilion	St Albans District Council	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Sopwell	5
Pioneer Youth Club	Private Club	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Marshallswick	5
The Wick	St Albans District Council	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Marshallswick	5
Verulamium Park	St Albans District Council	10	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	Verulam	5
Woollam Playing Fields - Old Albanians	Sports Club	1	0	0	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	Marshallswick	5
Westminster Lodge Athletics Track		1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Verulam	5
		24	2	2	6	5	0	2	0	1			
Colney Heath FC	Parish Council - leased to club	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Colney Heath	6
Highfield Park	St Albans District Council	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Colney Heath	6
Oaklands Lane - (Boggy Mead Spring) St Albans RFC	Sports Club	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	Colney Heath	6
Oaklands Lane - Harvesters FC	Sports Club	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Colney Heath	6
		4	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0		
Cotlandswick Playing Field	St Albans District Council	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	London Colney	7
Old Verulamium RUFC, Cotlandswick	Sports Club	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	London Colney	7
Shenley Lane Playing Fields	London Colney Parish Council	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	London Colney	7
Harperbury Hospital	Trust	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	London Colney	7
White Horse Lane Recreation Ground / Morris Playing Fields	London Colney Parish Council	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	London Colney	7
		7	2	4	0	3	0	0	0	0	0		
Bricket Wood Sports Centre	St Albans District Council	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	St Stephens	8
Greenwood Park	St Stephens Parish Council	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	St Stephens	8
Park Street Recreation Ground	St Albans District Council	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	St Stephens	8
St Stephens Parish Centre	St Stephens Parish Council	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	St Stephens	8
		5	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0		

APPENDIX E

QUALITY ASSESSMENT MATRIX

Quality Assessment - Site Sheet and Ancillary Facilities

Site Name:	<input type="text"/>	Assessment undertaken by:	<input type="text"/>
Site Address:	<input type="text"/>	Date of Assessment:	<input type="text"/>
Grid Ref: X	<input type="text"/>	Weather condition:	<input type="text"/>
Grid Ref: Y	<input type="text"/>		
Nr of pitch(es):	<input type="checkbox"/> Football <input type="checkbox"/> Cricket <input type="checkbox"/> Rugby <input type="checkbox"/> Hockey <input type="checkbox"/> Other		

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
About the ancillary facilities...							
Perceived quality of changing accommodation	Excellent		Good	Average	Poor	No changing	
Evidence of vandalism	None		Yes - some			Yes - lots	
Parking	Good			Average		Poor	
							Does it look well maintained, clean, safe etc
							Damage to pavillion, graffiti, broken glass etc
							Is there enough for circa 20 cars, bays marked out etc

Scoring:	<input type="text" value="0"/>	out of	<input type="text" value="20"/>	Key:	<div>over 90% 60%-89% 40%-59% 30%-39% Less than 30%</div> <div>Excellent Good Average Poor Very Poor</div>
Total Score		0 %			

Quality Assessment - Pitch Quality Assessment

Site Number:

Sport:

Site Name:

Background information:

Number of games played on pitch each season

Number of hours of training on pitch during season/ pre-season

Number of games cancelled due to unfitness of pitch (excluding frozen pitches)

% of games cancelled per season

#DIV/0!

(total for year)

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
About the pitch/ outfield...								
Grass cover - entire pitch/ outfield?	>94%	85-94%	70-84%	60-69%	<60%		Where, 90%+ grass cover should be given 'Excellent'; less than 50% should be considered 'very poor'	
Length of grass?	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor		The ideal length of grass will vary between sports	
Drainage - % of games cancelled (see above)	None	1-10%	11-30%	31-49%	>50%		Take % from above	
Size of pitches? - does it meet the NGB standard?	Yes - for adults		Yes - for juniors		No		See guidance notes for pitch dimensions	
Adequate safety margins? - does it meet the NGB standard?	Yes - for adults		Yes - for juniors		No		See guidance notes for pitch dimensions	
Slope of pitches (gradient and cross fall)	Excellent	Good	Good	Poor			Where, flat pitch = 'Excellent'	
Evenness of pitch	Excellent	Good	Good	Poor				
Problem Areas: Evidence of Dog fouling	None	Yes - some	Yes - lots				If no evidence, assume none ie score as '5' or refer to user survey	
Problem Areas: Evidence of Glass/ stones/ litter	None	Yes - some	Yes - lots				If no evidence, assume none ie score as '5' or refer to user survey	
Problem Areas: Evidence of Unofficial use	None	Yes - some	Yes - lots				eg trespass, kids kickabout etc. If no evidence, assume none ie score as '5' or refer to user survey	
Problem Areas: Evidence of Damage to surface	None	Yes - some	Yes - lots				eg, golf divots, car-parking on field etc. If no evidence, assume none ie score as '5' or refer to user survey	
Exposure of pitch to elements				No			Is the pitch sheltered from the prevailing wind	
Training area	Yes			No			eg nets/ goals/ grids off main body of pitch	
About the equipment/ wicket...								
Goal posts/ nets/ wicket square - quality	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor		Eg, Well painted, upright and has safe hooks...at both ends. If posts are dismantled after game, assume 'Excellent' ie score as '5'	
Line markings - quality	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor		Eg, Have they been painted recently; are lines clear etc	
Protection of pitch/ wicket	Yes			No			Is goal mouth cordoned off, wicket covered etc when pitch is not being used	

Scoring:

Pitch Equipment

61 out of 0

15 out of 0

76 out of 0

TOTAL

Key:

90%+ An excellent pitch

64-90% A good pitch

55-64% An average pitch

30-54% A below average pitch

Less than 30 A poor pitch

Total Score 0 %

APPENDIX F

DETAILS OF TEAMS PLAYING IN ST ALBANS

Surveyed clubs - football

Club Name	Male Adult	Female Adult	Male Junior	Female Junior	Mini	Home Ground	Ward / Parish	Analysis Area
Harpenden Colts	0	1	20	1	19	Redbourn Rec Centre	Redbourn	1
Marbleton Old Boys	1	0	0	0	0	0 Redbourn Rec Centre	Redbourn	1
Redbourn FC	1	0	1	0	0	0 Redbourn Rec Centre	Redbourn	1
Aspley Vale	2	0	0	0	0	0 Redbourn Rec. Centre	Redbourn	1
	4	1	21	1	19			
Harpenden Rovers	2	0	4	0	0	0 Cravells Road	Harpenden	2
Oaks Football Club	1	0	0	0	0	0 Rothamsted Park	Harpenden	2
Harpenden Town	2	0	0	0	0	0 Rothamsted Park	Harpenden	2
Cricketers (Redbourn)	1	0	0	0	0	0 Rothamsted Park	Harpenden	2
Harpenden Amateurs	1	0	0	0	0	0 Rothamsted Park	Harpenden	2
Marquis of Granby	1	0	0	0	0	0 Rothamsted Park	Harpenden	2
Redbourn Football Club	1	0	0	0	0	0 Rothamsted	Harpenden	2
The Oak Tree FC	0	1	0	0	0	0 Rothamsted Park	Harpenden	2
Harpenden Park Dragons	2	0	0	0	0	0 Roundwood Park	Harpenden	2
Emerald Vale	1	0	0	0	0	0 William Bird Playing	St Michael	2
BOCA	1	0	0	0	0	0 William Bird Playing	St Michael	2
Cell Barnes Old Boys	1	0	0	0	0	0 William Bird Playing	St Michael	2
Chequers St Albans	1	0	0	0	0	0 William Bird Playing	St Michael	2
Court United	1	0	0	0	0	0 William Bird Playing	St Michael	2
Crown	1	0	0	0	0	0 William Bird Playing	St Michael	2
Inn on the Green Football Club	1	0	0	0	0	0 Fields	St Michael	2
London Colney Village (RSL)	1	0	0	0	0	0 Fields	St Michael	2
St Peters FC	2	0	0	0	0	0 Fields	St Michael	2
Radlett Reserves	1	0	0	0	0	0 Fields	St Michael	2
Rats Castle (RSL)	1	0	0	0	0	0 Fields	St Michael	2
Riders InterSport	1	0	0	0	0	0 Fields	St Michael	2
Sandridge Sports 3	1	0	0	0	0	0 Fields	St Michael	2
Unfitt FC	1	0	0	0	0	0 Fields	St Michael	2
Dynamo NG	1	0	0	0	0	0 Fields	St Michael	2
St Albans Rangers	2	0	0	0	0	0 Fields	St Michael	2
	29	1	4	0	0			
The Skew Bridge	2	0	0	0	0	0 Folly Fields	Wheatthampstead	3
Wheatthampstead 89 and Wheath	2	0	0	0	0	0 Marford Field	Wheatthampstead	3
Wheatthampstead Wanderers	0	0	13	1	0	0 Marford Field	Wheatthampstead	3
	4	0	13	1	0			
Sandridge Sports 1 and 2	2	0	0	0	0	0 Spencer Rec Ground	Sandridge	4
	2	0	0	0	0			

Teams By Analysis Area	Adult football	Womens Football	Junior Boys	Junior Girls	Mini Football
Redbourn and surrounds	4	1	21	1	19
West Harpenden and surrounds	29	1	4	0	0
East Harpenden and Wheatthampstead	2	0	13	1	0
Sandridge	53	0	7	0	0
Conry Heath	7	0	35	3	12
London Colney	11	0	22	3	13
Park Street and St Stephens	9	0	3	0	0
	119	2	105	8	44

E.F.M	2	0	0	0	Cunningham Hill	Cunningham	5
Hatfield Road Social	2	0	0	0	Cunningham Hill	Cunningham	5
Millers	1	0	0	0	Cunningham Hill	Cunningham	5
St Albans Royals	1	0	0	0	Cunningham Hill	Cunningham	5
Verulam Arms	1	0	0	0	Cunningham Hill	Cunningham	5
Vision	1	0	0	0	Cunningham Hill	Cunningham	5
London Road Social	1	0	0	0	0 Fox Croft, St Albans	Cunningham	5
Arlon	1	0	0	0	0 Francis Bacon School	Cunningham	5
Blackberry Jacks	1	0	0	0	0 Francis Bacon School	Cunningham	5
Crooked Billet	2	0	0	0	0 Francis Bacon School	Cunningham	5
Marshallwick Rovers	1	0	0	0	0 Francis Bacon School	Cunningham	5
Three Lions	2	0	0	0	0 Francis Bacon School	Cunningham	5
London Road Juniors					Francis Bacon School /		
Cottonmill Warriors	0	0	7	0	Cunningham Hill	Cunningham	5
Shenley Sports	1	0	0	0	0 School	Sopwell	5
St Albans City	2	0	0	0	0 Malborough Club	Sopwell	5
Six Bells	1	0	0	0	0 Malborough Club	Clarence	5
The Peacock FC	1	0	0	0	St Albans City FC,	Verulam	5
Brookmans Park FC	3	0	0	0	0 Clarence Park	Verulam	5
Champs	1	0	0	0	0 Verulamium Park	Verulam	5
Acorn FC	1	0	0	0	0 Verulamium Park	Verulam	5
Athletoz Quat	1	0	0	0	0 Verulam School	Verulam	5
Global AFC	1	0	0	0	0 Verulamium Park	Verulam	5
Marnold Athletic	1	0	0	0	0 Verulamium Park	Verulam	5
Black Horse	1	0	0	0	0 Verulamium Park	Verulam	5
Leavis	1	0	0	0	0 Verulamium Park	Verulam	5
P.C.I	1	0	0	0	0 Verulamium Park	Verulam	5
Rose and Crown RSL	1	0	0	0	0 Verulamium Park	Verulam	5
Peacock FC	1	0	0	0	0 Verulamium Park	Verulam	5
PCI FC (Pasta Cibo International)	1	0	0	0	0 Verulamium Park	Verulam	5
The Six Bells	1	0	0	0	0 Verulamium Park	Verulam	5
Recruit Employment Services	1	0	0	0	0 Verulamium Park	Verulam	5
Sandridge Rovers	3	0	0	0	0 Verulamium Park	Verulam	5
Church End FC	1	0	0	0	0 Verulamium Park	Verulam	5
Dukes	1	0	0	0	0 Verulamium Park	Verulam	5
IFK Butties FC	1	0	0	0	0 Verulamium Park	Verulam	5
Kings Sport FC	5	0	0	0	0 Verulamium Park	Verulam	5
St Albans Wanderers	1	0	0	0	0 Verulamium Park	Verulam	5
Queens Head Logic FC (Reserve)	1	0	0	0	Woolham Playing Fields and William Bird	Marshallwick	5
Old Albanians	1	0	0	0	0 Playing Fields	Marshallwick	5
Queens Head Logic FC	1	0	0	0	0 Woolham Playing Fields and William Bird	Marshallwick	5
	53	0	7	0	0 Playing Fields	Marshallwick	5

Colney Heath Juniors FC	0	0	5	0	2	Colney Heath FC	Colney Heath	6
Colney Heath Ladies FC	2	0	0	0	0	Colney Heath FC	Colney Heath	6
Colney Heath Queens Head FC	2	0	0	0	0	Colney Heath FC	Colney Heath	6
St Albans City Youth	0	0	18	2	0	Highfield Park	Colney Heath	6
Harvesters FC	1	0	12	1	10	Oaklands Lane	Colney Heath	6
St Albans Romans	2	0	0	0	0	Oaklands Lane	Colney Heath	6
	7	0	35	3	12			
London Colney FC	2	0	0	0	0	Cotlandswick Playing Field	London Colney	7
London Colney Ladies	1	0	0	0	0	Cotlandswick Playing Field	London Colney	7
The Bull London Colney FC	2	0	0	0	0	Morris Playing Fields	London Colney	7
Colney Athletic	2	0	0	0	0	Morris Way (reserves play at William Bird Playing Fields)	London Colney	7
London Colney B.C.H	1	0	0	0	0	Morris Way	London Colney	7
London Colney Village (WH)	1	0	0	0	0	Morris Way	London Colney	7
St Albans Rangers	0	0	16	2	12	Harperbury Hospital	London Colney	7
London Colney Colts and Cougar	0	0	6	1	1	Various	London Colney	7
Phoenix FC	2	0	0	0	0	White Horse Lane and William Bird Playing Fields	London Colney / \	7
	11	0	22	3	13			
Kenton United	2	0	0	0	0	Bricket Wood Sports Centre	St Stephen	8
Garston Boys	0	0	1	0	0	Greenwood Park	St Stephen	8
Saints Supporters	1	0	0	0	0	Greenwood Park	St Stephen	8
Suffolk Youth	0	0	2	0	0	Greenwood Park	St Stephen	8
Parkwood Utd FC	1	0	0	0	0	Greenwood Park, Chiswell Green	St Stephen	8
Golden Lion Rangers	1	0	0	0	0	Park Street Rec	St Stephen	8
Park Street Village	2	0	0	0	0	Park Street Rec	St Stephen	8
Gate Football Club & Reserve Td	9	0	3	0	0	Park Street Rec	St Stephen	8

Surveyed clubs - cricket

Club Name	Male Adult	Female Adult	Male Junior	Female Junior	Mini	Home Ground	Analysis Areas
Redbourn Cricket Club	5	1	3	0	0	Redbourn Common	1
	5	1	3	0	0		
Harpenden Dolphins Cricket Club	1	0	0	0	0	Rothamstead Park	2
Harpenden Cricket Club	9	0	7	0	3	Harpenden Common Cricket Club	2
Newgreens Cricket Club	1	0	0	0	0	William Bird Playing Fields	2
Hollybush Cricket Club	1	0	0	0	0	Rothamstead Park	2
Carpenters Cricket Club	1	0	0	0	0	Rothamstead Park	2
Players and Jesters Cricket Club	1	0	0	0	0	Rothamstead Park	2
Harpenden Wednesday Cricket Club	15	0	7	0	3	Harpenden Common Cricket Club	2
Wheatthampstead Cricket Club	4	0	2	0	0	Nomansland Common	3
	4	0	2	0	0		
Sandridge Cricket Club	2	0	3	0	0	Spencer Recreation Ground	4
St John Fisher Cricket Club	1	0	0	0	0	Spencer Recreation Ground	4
	3	0	3	0	0		
Old Albanian Cricket Club	3	0	2	0	0	Woolhams Playing Fields	5
St Albans Cricket Club	7	0	5	0	0	Clarence Park	5
Hampstead Cricket Club	1	0	0	0	0	Woolhams Playing Fields	5
St Michael's Cricket Club	1	0	0	0	0	Verulamium Park	5
	12	0	7	0	0		
Frogmore Cricket Club	4	0	0	0	0	Park Street Recreation Ground	8
Greenwood Park Cricket Club	4	0	0	0	0	Greenwood Park	8
St Albans West Indian Cricket	1	0	0	0	0	Greenwood Park	8
Park Street Dads Cricket Team	1	0	0	0	0	Park Street Recreation Ground	8
Kiddgrooves School Cricket Club	1	0	0	0	0	Greenwood Park	8
	11	0	0	0	0		

Teams by Ward	Adult	Female Adult	Male Junior	Female Junior	Mini
Redbourn and surrounds	5	1	3	0	0
West Harpenden and surrounds	15	0	7	0	3
East Harpenden and Wheathampstead	4	0	2	0	0
Sandridge	3	0	3	0	0
Central	12	0	7	0	0
Colney Heath	0	0	0	0	0
London Colney	0	0	0	0	0
Park Street and St Stephens	11	0	0	0	0
	50	1	22	0	3

Surveyed clubs - rugby

Name	Male Adult	Female Adult	Male Junior	Female Veteran	Sport	Home Ground	Analysis Areas
Harpenden RFC	5	0	9	0	Rugby Union	Redbourn Lane - Harpenden RUFC	2
	5	0	9	0			
Old Albanians	6	2	6	0	Rugby Union	Woolhams Playing Fields	5
Centurions Rugby Lea	2	0	2	1	Rugby League	Woolhams Playing Fields	5
	8	2	8	1			
St Albans RUFC	3	2	0	0	Rugby Union	Oaklands Lane - (Boggy Mead Spring) St Albans RFC	6
ST Albans RLFC	1	0	0	0	Rugby League	Oaklands Lane - (Boggy Mead Spring) St Albans RFC	6
	4	2	0	0			
Old Verulamium	4	0	0	1	Rugby Union	Cotslandswick Playing Field	7
	5	0	0	0			

There are also 6 mini rugby teams playing informally at Old Albanians RUFC

Teams by Ward	Male Adult	Female Adult	Male Junior	Female Junior
Redbourn and surrounds	0	0	0	0
West Harpenden and surrounds	5	0	9	0
East Harpenden and Wheathampstead	0	0	0	0
Sandridge	0	0	0	0
Central	8	2	8	1
Colney Heath	4	2	0	0
London Colney	5	0	0	0
Park Street and St Stephens	0	0	0	0
	22	4	17	1

Surveyed clubs - hockey							
Hockey Clubs	Male Adult	Female Adult	Male Junior	Female Junior	Home Ground	Analysis Areas	
St Albans Hockey Club	9	6	5	5	Clarence Park	5	

Teams by Ward	Male Adult	Female Adult	Male Junior	Female Junior
Redbourn and surrounds	0	0	0	0
West Harpenden and surrounds	0	0	0	0
East Harpenden and Wheathampstead	0	0	0	0
Sandridge	0	0	0	0
Central	9	6	5	5
Colney Heath	0	0	0	0
London Colney	0	0	0	0
Park Street and St Stephens	0	0	0	0
	9	6	5	5

APPENDIX G
CARRYING CAPACITY AUDIT

Carrying Capacity of Pitches

Site	Ownership	Nr of adult football pitches	Nr of junior football pitches	Nr of mini football pitches	Nr of cricket pitches	Nr of adult rugby pitches	Nr of junior rugby pitches	Nr of adult grass hockey pitches	Nr of junior grass hockey pitches	Nr of artificial hockey pitches	Ward	Analysis Area	Comments regarding carrying capacity
Redbourn Recreation Centre	Redbourn Parish Council / Trust	3.0	2.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Redbourn	1	
Redbourn Common	Redbourne Parish Council /Trust	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Redbourn	1	
		3.0	2.0	5.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0			
Harpenden Common Cricket Club	Town Council, licensed to club	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Harpenden	2	
Harpenden Rovers FC - The Acre	Town Council, leased	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Harpenden	2	
Highfield Oval	Youth with a mission	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Harpenden	2	
Redbourn Lane - Harpenden RUFC	Sports Club	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Harpenden	2	
Rothamsted Experimental Station	Sports Club	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Harpenden	2	
Rothamsted Park	St Albans District Council	3.0	4.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Harpenden	2	Junior provision remains the same as although some matches are lost, 3 games per week are played on many pitches. Football and cricket provision overlaps
William Bird Playing Fields	St Albans District Council	4.5	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	St Michaels	2	Poor drainage, need for spare capacity or pitches, high cancellation rate
		12.5	4.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0			
Folly Fields	Wheathampstead Parish Council.	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Wheathampstead	3	Poor quality therefore reduced capacity to 1 game per week
Marford Field	Wheathampstead Parish Council.	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Wheathampstead	3	Poor quality therefore reduced capacity to 1 game per week
Nomansland Common	Wheathampstead Parish Council.	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Wheathampstead	3	
Wheathampstead Education Centre	Wheathampstead Parish Council.	0.0	1.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Wheathampstead	3	
		2.0	1.0	2.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0			
Spencer Recreation Ground	Sandridge Parish Council / Trust	2.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Sandridge Marshalswick North	4	
William Bell Recreation Ground	St Albans District Council	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Sandridge	4	
		2.0	1.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0			

Clarence Park	St Albans District Council	1.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	1.0	Clarence	5	
Cunningham Hill Playing Fields	St Albans District Council	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Cunningham	5	Drainage limits the use of these pitches
Foxcroft Playing Field	St Albans District Council	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Cunningham	5	No Changing - therefore 1 pitch removed
Francis Bacon School	Hertfordshire County Council	2.5	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Cunningham	5	Midweek school use therefore capacity reduced.
Marlborough Pavilion	St Albans District Council	0.5	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Sopwell	5	This pitch has a poor surface and is very uneven therefore only one game per week is currently booked on this pitch
Pioneer Youth Club	Private Club	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Marshalswick	5	No changing, poor pitch therefore 1 pitch removed
The Wick	St Albans District Council	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Marshalswick	5	
Verulamium Park	St Albans District Council	4.0	1.0	1.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Verulam	5	2 pitches left alone for casual use, insufficient capacity of all pitches to take 2 games plus there is a requirement for rest and recovery. In addition, events at the park can frequently affect sports pitch provision. The season overruns with cricket and football competing for the same site.
Woolams Playing Fields - Old Albanians	Sports Club	1.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	Marshalswick	5	Very Good
Westminster Lodge Athletics Track		1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Verulam	5	
		11.5	2.0	2.0	6.0	5.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	2.0			
Colney Heath FC	Parish Council - leased to the club	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Colney Heath	6	
Highfield Park	St Albans District Council	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Colney Heath	6	
Oaklands Lane - (Boggy Mead Spring) St Albans RFC	Sports Club	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Colney Heath	6	Good
Oaklands Lane - Harvesters FC	Sports Club	1.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Colney Heath	6	Good
		4.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0			
Cotlandswick Playing Field	St Albans District Council	1.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	London Colney	7	No facilities unless connected with London Colney FC - 1 pitch removed
Old Verulamium RUFC, Cotlandswick	Sports Club	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	London Colney	7	
Shenley Lane Playing Fields	London Colney Parish Council	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	London Colney	7	
Harperbury Hospital	Trust	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	London Colney	7	
White Horse Lane Recreation Ground / Morris Playing Fields	London Colney Parish Council	2.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	London Colney	7	
		6.0	2.0	4.0	0.0	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0			
Bricket Wood Sports Centre	St Albans District Council	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	St Stephens	8	No changing available therefore 1 pitch removed
Greenwood Park	St Stephens Parish Council	2.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	St Stephens	8	
Park Street Recreation Ground	St Albans District Council	1.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	St Stephens	8	1 pitch is poor, the other cannot sustain two games per week therefore overall total reduced.
St Stephens Parish Centre	St Stephens Parish Council	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	St Stephens	8	
		3.0	1.0	2.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0			