

A STUDY OF PLAYING PITCHES

in Southend-on-Sea Borough

Final Report

Leisure and the Environment

August 2004



This study report was commissioned by the Southend-on-Sea Borough Council as local planning authority and as provider of public open space, sport and recreation facilities. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure that the report is factually accurate, its contents, opinions, conclusions and recommendations are entirely those of the consultant who carried out the study. The content should not be held to represent the views of the Borough Council. It is therefore being made available solely for information purposes as a background technical document forming part of the evidence base for the delivery of relevant planning and other service delivery.

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Contact

Debee Skinner,
Strategic Planning, Technical and Environmental Services,
Southend on Sea Borough Council,
PO Box 5557, Civic Centre, Victoria Avenue,
Southend on Sea, Essex SS2 6ZF
Telephone: 01702 215408
E-Mail: debeeskinner@southend.gov.uk

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Leisure and the Environment
 Brandreth House
 Priory Road
 Newbury RG147QS
 t. 01635 43024
 f. 07770 459058
 e. info@lande.co.uk
www.lande.co.uk

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 GENERAL

Leisure and the Environment was commissioned by Southend-on-Sea Borough Council to undertake a study of playing pitches and other outdoor sports facilities within the Borough. The study was supported by Sport England, and received funding through the New Opportunities Fund (Greenspaces Initiative).

This particular study (and strategy) is part of a larger piece of work that examines other open space and recreation issues (covered in a separate report.)

In common with many other parts of the country there are growing issues surrounding the development and retention of playing fields, and the development of pitch sports:

- Central Government has highlighted the problems associated with the loss of playing fields, especially on school sites and has put in place measures to prevent their loss.
- Planning Policy Guidance advises local authorities to provide the strongest protection for open space and adopt a strategic approach to its provision and protection.
- Sport England has been a statutory consultee on planning applications affecting sports pitches since 1996, and has adopted a Playing Field Policy and Strategy, the latter has recently been reviewed and republished as 'Towards a Level Playing Field' (2003).
- An increasing pressure for the development of urban land is threatening green spaces, including sports pitches, in many towns.
- The availability of additional funding, especially from regeneration agencies and the Lottery, highlights the need to take a strategic and objective approach to the consideration of playing field issues.
- There is the opportunity to secure recreational and open space provision in conjunction with new housing and other development, and guidance is needed in advance of the preparation of local development documents and other planning advice.
- The retention and provision of pitches is an important prerequisite to the future development of pitch sports themselves, especially for juniors and other groups not currently participating at desirable levels, and for those seeking to improve their standards of performance.

This study has therefore been undertaken with the following objectives, to:

- help the Borough meet the demand for sports pitches;
- identify external funding for their improvement and additional provision;
- inform the review of the local plan;
- provide the Borough with adequate planning guidance to determine proposals affecting playing fields; and,
- inform the preparation of subsequent development plans for pitch sports in the Borough.

The main work involved in the study can be summarised as follows:

- An assessment of the Borough's outdoor pitch sport facilities. This assessment includes consideration of the availability and current use of facilities and identifies existing problems restricting their use, such as pitch condition and/or the inadequacy of ancillary facilities.
- An identification of opportunities to provide new facilities, or improve existing ones to allow them to be more intensively used, provide a wider range of activities or otherwise become more attractive to users.
- Consideration of how developers can contribute to future pitch provision together with other funding sources.
- Guidance leading to the development of pitch sport development plans in the Borough.

The study deals primarily with the four main pitch sports of football, cricket, hockey and rugby that are by far the most significant pitch sports in terms of participation and impact. No other pitch sports have been identified which have any local significance. In addition to the above, the report considers some issues in respect of the important (yet often overlooked) issue of informal youth play, which have implications for both local outdoor sports development as well as wider objectives such as social inclusion and crime reduction.

1.2 THIS REPORT

The report is set out as follows:

- Issues, Concerns and Context
- Method
- Supply and Demand for Pitches
- Provision for Youth

- Summary of Issues
- Towards a Standard and Overall Strategy for Playing Pitches
- Recommendations
- Appendices

The study is concerned only with public, or community, demand for pitches and other outdoor facilities. While this includes the contribution that sports clubs make it does not consider demand from other sectors such as school curriculum development, universities and higher education and professional sport.

The study area is defined as the administrative Borough of Southend-on-Sea, and the detailed information on demand and supply set out in the report relates only to this area. However, it is recognised that in sports terms, the Borough is part of a wider functional area and the study attempts to consider any issues arising from teams and players that travel into and out of the Borough.

Key issues are highlighted in short summary/bullet points at various stages in Sections 2, 4 and 5, and are then drawn together in a short section (6). Please also note that to avoid repetition, this report uses several abbreviated terms; although fully defined when first used these terms are also explained in a glossary included as Appendix 4.

2. ISSUES, CONCERNS AND CONTEXT

2.1 PLAYING FIELDS AND OPEN SPACE

There are few more emotive issues dealt with in the planning system than the loss of playing fields. The concern is part of a wider debate on the protection and management of urban open space in general, and has been particularly high on the political agenda since the early 1990s.

This report deals largely with playing pitches and other relevant outdoor sports provision. It is not generally concerned with children's play areas, informal open space, green lungs, country parks and other aspects of open space. The one exception to this is the consideration given to outdoor provision for informal youth sports.

Playing fields, especially those in the public domain, can also be used for casual play, dog walking, picnics and many other activities not associated with formal sport. They may have an environmental role, in providing open views, natural habitats and amenity green spaces. Access to informal space for healthy activity and children's play can, of course, encourage people to take up formal sport. All of these potential relationships are acknowledged but remain outside the scope of this report.

However, as mentioned in the introduction, this report of study is only part of a wider examination of open space and recreation issues, and the Borough Council 'Parks Strategy' (discussed later) also addresses many fundamental issues in relation to existing parks and open spaces within the Borough. The Parks Strategy is, however, only a first step and will be superseded by a Green Space Strategy now in the course of preparation. The Council is therefore adopting an integrated and holistic approach to planning and managing open space, and this document will form an essential component of this approach.

There is often a general presumption against the loss of open spaces, on the basis that once lost to development they can usually never be returned to that use. In principle this is a line that many local planning documents take on sports pitches. However, there are a whole range of sporting, operational and management reasons why playing fields need to be considered separately from wider open space considerations. A playing field may no longer meet the specific needs of existing users because:

- Technological innovation in the sport has rendered the facility obsolete.
- Artificial turf pitches for example have replaced grass as the standard surface for competitive hockey.
- Clubs may outgrow their facilities and cannot develop due to constraints imposed by the site on the number of pitches and teams

- Ancillary facilities are required, such as changing, parking or floodlighting, which cannot be accommodated on an existing site.

There may also be major strategic reasons why pitches are no longer required for sport. When schools close or rolls fall it will reduce the curricular need for pitches. Similarly, structural changes in industry over the years have led to the rationalisation and closure of many company sports and social club facilities.

It is against this background that planning and social policy on open space and playing fields has been developed.

2.2 NATIONAL POLICY CONTEXT

National policies on planning for and protecting playing pitches and other outdoor sports facilities have over the years attempted to strike a balance between the general desire to protect playing fields, and a pragmatic recognition that in some circumstances there may be a justification in sanctioning disposal of all or part of the site. This balance however has not always succeeded in protecting valuable facilities.

Government Planning Policy – The revised version of PPG17 – Sport and Recreation was published in July 2002. Like its predecessor (published in 1991) it recognizes the special significance of all playing fields for their recreational and amenity value, and urges local planning authorities to recognise their long-term community value.

The PPG states that objectives for open spaces/sport and recreation should be linked with: supporting an urban renaissance, supporting a rural renewal, promotion of social inclusion and community cohesion, health and well being and the promotion of more sustainable development.

A requirement for assessments and audits of open space/sports/recreational facilities is made clear in order to:

- identify the needs of the population;
- identify the potential for increased use; and,
- establish an effective strategy for open space/sports/recreational facilities at the local level.

These assessments and audits will help in resolving potential conflicts between different uses and users of open space/sports/recreational facilities. The PPG states that land should not be built on unless an assessment has been undertaken which clearly shows that the open space/buildings and land are surplus to requirements:

“An application for planning permission may seek to demonstrate through an independent assessment that the land or buildings are surplus to requirements.

Planning conditions may be used to secure part of the development of a site for an open space/recreational facility that is in deficit.

Parks, recreation grounds, playing fields and allotments must not be regarded as 'previously developed land'. “

With specific regard to playing fields:

“In advance of an assessment of need, LA's should give very careful consideration to any planning applications involving development on playing fields. ...Where a robust assessment of need in accordance with the guidance has not been undertaken, planning permission for such developments should not be allowed unless:

- the proposed development is ancillary to the use of the site;*
- proposed development only affects land which is incapable of forming a playing pitch;*
- playing fields lost would be replaced by facilities of equivalent or better quality and quantity; and,*
- proposed development is for a sports facility of sufficient benefit to the development of sport to outweigh the loss. “*

In terms of the PPG's guidance on planning for new open space/sports and recreational facilities General principles include:

- accessibility;*
- contribution to town centre vitality and viability;*
- quality of the public realm;*
- adding to and enhancing the range of existing facilities;*
- preferential use of brownfield land; and,*
- considering the scope for using any surplus land for sport use - weighing this against alternative uses.*

As a consequence of the growing concern at the loss of playing fields in the early 1990s, the government, by virtue of an amendment to the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) (Amendment) Order 1996 designated the Sports Council (now Sport England), as a statutory consultee on all planning applications affecting sports pitches. To strengthen these powers further, The Town and Country Planning (Playing Fields) (England) Direction 1998 required all local planning authorities to refer to the

Secretary of State any planning application which they wish to approve contrary to an objection from Sport England.

Other Government and National Policy. The Government policy for sport was considered and published in 'A Sporting Future for All' (April 2000) by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) in conjunction with Department for Education and Employment (DfEE). Playing fields feature significantly in the section on 'Lifelong Participation' in 'Sport in the Community', and the strategy seeks to strengthen playing pitch protection by additional planning powers (see above), lottery funding through the Green Spaces and Sustainable Community Initiative, controls over the disposal of school sites (see below) and better monitoring.

In 2002 the Prime minister's Strategy Unit produce 'Game Plan',` a strategy for delivering the government's sport and physical activity objectives. It states that the government should set itself two overarching objectives:

- a major increase in participation in sport and physical activity, primarily because of the significant health benefits, and to reduce the growing costs of inactivity; and,
- a sustainable improvement in success in international competition, particularly in the sports which matter most to the public, primarily because of the "feelgood factor" associated with winning.

In order it makes recommendations in four areas:

- Grassroots participation
- High performance sport
- 'Mega sporting events'
- Delivery

This playing pitch strategy has particular relevance to the delivery of greater levels of grassroots participation.

DfEE (now Department for Education and Skills - DfES). A particular issue within the playing fields debate has been the disposal of education playing fields deemed to be surplus to school requirements. Section 77 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 gave the Secretary of State powers to protect school playing fields from disposal or change of use, and Circular 3/99 interpreted this in detail. The Circular introduced the need for widespread consultation with the community and other user groups, prior to a decision being reached to dispose of land. Approval for disposal is only given where funds raised are ploughed back into sport and education, and where remaining playing fields fully meet the needs of the school and community now and in the future. Circular 3/99 has now been superseded by new guidance from DfES entitled 'Protection of School Playing Fields and Land for City Academies', which emphasises wider community use and the need for asset management plans for schools.

Central to the retention of playing fields has been the role of Sport England, and its predecessor, the Sports Council. Together with the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) and Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR), the Sports Council originally published in 1991 a 'considered approach' to the retention of playing fields, a range of issues to be addressed and a new methodology for assessing playing field need at a local level (subsequently used in this study). The strategy has stood the test of time, and provided the background to Sport England's involvement in playing field issues. It has recently been reviewed and republished as 'Towards a Level Playing Field' (2003). The new strategy endorses the messages of the previous strategy, but also confirms the wider amenity, social, and environmental value of playing pitches as open space and community capital.

Sport England lobbied strongly to become designated as a statutory consultee on planning applications affecting playing fields, and achieved this status in 1996. It developed a national policy to guide its approach to playing field retention and disposal. This policy is as follows:

“(Sport England) will oppose the granting of planning permission for any development which would lead to the loss of, or would prejudice the use of, all or any part of a playing field, or land last used as a playing field or land allocated for use as a playing field in an adopted or draft deposit local plan, unless, in the judgement of (Sport England) one of the specific circumstances applies.

The specific circumstances are:

- 1. A carefully quantified and documented assessment of current and future needs has demonstrated to the satisfaction of (Sport England) that there is an excess of playing provision in the catchment, and the site has no special significance to the interests of sport.*
- 2. The proposed development is ancillary to the principal use of the site as a playing field or playing fields and does not affect the quantity or quality of pitches or adversely affect their use.*
- 3. The proposed development affects only land incapable of forming, or forming part of, a playing pitch, and does not result in the loss of or inability to make use of any playing pitch (including the maintenance of adequate safety margins), a reduction in the size of the playing area of any playing pitch or the loss of any other sporting/ancillary facilities on the site*
- 4. The playing field or playing fields which could be lost as a result of the proposed development would be replaced by a playing field or playing fields of an equivalent or better quality and of equivalent or greater quantity, in a suitable location and subject to equivalent or better management arrangements prior to the commencement of development.*

5. The proposed development is for an indoor or outdoor sports facility, the provision of which would be of sufficient benefit to the development of sport as to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss of the playing field or playing fields.

It has also incorporated the need for positive policies for playing field protection and retention in its land use planning policy statement 'Planning Policies for Sport' (November 1999)

Since 1938 the NPFA has urged a minimum standard for play and recreational open space, of 6 acres per 1000 population, traditionally known as the NPFA Six Acre Standard. This is a basic approach to planning for recreational open space used by many local authorities and based on a minimum level of provision to be sought. Application of the standard involves a simple calculation using an accepted ratio of space required per head of population. In the case of playing pitches, bowls greens, tennis courts and other similar outdoor facilities, this equates to 1.6 – 1.8 ha. per 1000 people (4 – 4.5 acres) of which pitches themselves are acknowledged to represent 1.21 ha. (3 acres). The standard has served its purpose well over the years, and indeed has recently been reviewed, with the NPFA urging an increased emphasis on implementation and best practice. It is recognised widely by local authorities, planning inspectors and others involved in planning policy, but is not necessarily sensitive to local needs: it is a useful baseline but needs to be supplemented by local assessments; a point that is endorsed by PPG17 and its companion guidance.

2.3 LOCAL POLICY

Southend-on-Sea Borough Local Plan Towards 2001 Adopted March 1994

This local development plan has major influence on the planning and management of playing pitches. Local development plans:

- allocate additional residential growth (which may in turn lead to additional demand for sports and recreational facilities of all kinds).
- set out policies in relation to the planning for and protection of all kinds of open space (including playing fields).
- identify specific proposals for new and improved sports facilities.

In addition, local development plans (together with other supplementary guidance) indicate to developers the contribution that they will be expected to make towards the maintenance and improvement of local facilities (including those for sport and recreation).

Of the five main aims of the Borough Local Plan the most relevant to this study are:

- to safeguard and enhance areas of urban and nature conservation interest and protect attractive townscape, urban green spaces, open countryside and the surrounding coastline, without stifling that development essential to the future prosperity and well-being of the Town.
- to make specific provision for improved sport, recreation and community facilities to overcome identified deficiencies and meet local needs.

The Recreation and Open Space chapter of the Local Plan puts forward 5 objectives:

1. To provide for and encourage the provision of a range of indoor and outdoor recreation facilities to overcome identified deficiencies in sports provision.
2. To ensure that the provision of new recreation facilities does not adversely affect the surrounding countryside, landscape quality or residential amenities.
3. To identify areas in the Borough deficient in the provision of open space and children's playground facilities, and to make good, where possible, such deficiencies.
4. To encourage greater awareness of and access to the countryside for informal recreation.
5. To identify active and passive recreation opportunities and to make resources available for their implementation as resources permit.

The relevant policies within this chapter are:

R1 Encourage and promote the retention of existing, and the provision of additional, outdoor sports facilities, both public and private. Permission will not be given which involves the loss of these facilities except where improved facilities are provided and the Council will seek to optimize the use of its own facilities.

R2 Deficiencies in indoor sports provision will be remedied by:

- i. giving priority in the provision of accessible indoor sports facilities through dual use and joint development
- ii. encouraging the retention of private indoor sports facilities
- iii. exploring the opportunities for more intensive use of Council holdings and facilities
- iv. investigating the needs of residents for indoor sports facilities.

R5 The Council will seek to ensure that no home is more than half a mile from a neighbourhood park and from a children's play area containing fixed play equipment, and no more than one mile from a local park providing active and

passive recreation facilities. Permission will not be given for any proposal which involves the loss of existing open space unless alternative equal provision is made.

Specific proposals of relevance are:

- P7a North Shoebury A 5.5 hectare extension to Shoeburyness Park recreation ground confirmed by this Local Plan
- P7b Shoebury High School, Delaware Road The Council will explore joint provision or dual use of a new sports hall to enable public use out of school hours
- P7f Land adjacent to the Francis Sports Ground, Eastern Avenue Planning permission was given (1992) for public open space use and replacement playing fields, pavilion and parking
- P7g Land north of Prince Avenue Two areas of land allocated for public open space subject to road realignment
- P7h Eastwoodbury Lane playing fields Due to road construction a replacement allocation is made of low grade agricultural land
- P7j Cockethurst Park extension 3.6 hectares allocated as public open space to be used as a playing field extension to Cockethurst Park
- P7k Eastwood High School, Rayleigh Road. The Council will seek dual use of these school facilities

Some of these proposals have been implemented and others have are yet to materialise.

**Southend 2011 An urban vision for the new millennium.
Replacement Southend on Sea Borough Local Plan Issues Report March 2001**

The existing Local Plan adopted in 1994 runs to 2001, this replacement Plan should cover the period to 2011. Since the last Plan the Borough has become a Unitary authority, and there is a need to integrate with other strategies; especially (in terms of this study) the Corporate Strategy, and the Thames Gateway Strategy.

One of the identified issues (number 28) concerns community and recreational opportunities. It suggests that policies should address the need:

- to help implement a strategy that provides for local facilities which are easily accessible to all residents

- to protect existing open space, playing fields, playgrounds and leisure and community centres from development
- to allocate land for development of new or replacement recreational opportunities
- to identify areas of under-used open space for development for other uses and allocate land for replacement by better facilities for the local community
- to require the provision of appropriate, usable open space and community facilities as part of the new development
- to require developers to make a financial contribution towards providing new and improved community facilities including open space and play facilities.¹

Thames Gateway South Essex

The Vision document was produced in 2001. It is proposed that as part of the the wider Thames Gateway initiative Southend-on-Sea, along with Rochford, will be a centre of cultural and educational excellence within the Thames Gateway South Essex area. To achieve this the aim is to:

- Transform Southend into a thriving cultural hub.
- Invest in the leisure and cultural infrastructure including theatres, swimming and sports facilities.

Southend and future development plan reviews

The demand for sports and recreation facilities is very much influenced by the size and characteristics of the local population. Therefore, future demand for playing pitches in Southend will be affected by the amount of new residential development sanctioned through future planning policies. It is becoming clear that the requirement in this regard may be substantial, and this is considered in Section 4.

It will therefore be important for this strategy to provide guidance to developers on playing pitch provision that is sufficiently robust to cater for all scenarios in terms of future levels of development.

Sports and Leisure Development Strategy (2003)

Within this strategy three forms of sports and leisure provision are addressed:

- sports development work – which includes specific development programmes and initiatives

¹ Taking into account as necessary possible changes in planning legislation affecting methods of developer contributions resulting from the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act.

- built sports facility provision – focussing on the five main sports facilities within the Borough
- park based sports facility provision - including pitches, courts, rinks etc.

The vision for sports and leisure in Southend, which has emerged from the strategy development process, is for:

‘A Borough where the resources available for sports and leisure are optimised through successful planning and partnership working, resulting in high quality sports and leisure services and facilities which promote healthy lifestyles and lifelong learning and which local people are able to and want to access’.

The Strategy covers many facets of sports and leisure development outside the immediate scope of this report. Equally, many conclusions and recommendations of the Strategy do have relevance, including the following:

New build outdoor sports and leisure facility needs:

- there is an identified need for more skateboard/ BMX facilities similar to those developed in Shoebury Park, but there is a lack of appropriate sites
- there are drainage problems on a limited number of pitches and a few clubs have indicated demand for improved pavilion facilities.

Potential actions to support additional pitch provision (where necessary) in the short to medium term including:

- review the potential to secure greater community access to pitches in educational ownership with spare capacity, possibly through a financial commitment to improve surfaces/ changing accommodation and provision if revenue subsidies to underpin community use.
- review potential to acquire by agreement or negotiating community access to private sports pitches which may come into the market (in partnership with other agencies).
- secure favourable leasing arrangements with existing landowners where possible. Work with clubs who require improved pavilion facilities and whose plans meet the ‘facility development criteria’ and work with them in undertaking feasibility work (including site analysis and funding opportunities).

In addition to the above, the Sports and Leisure Development Strategy identifies some general initiatives that may help to increase overall participation in sport and active recreation.

The Parks Strategy Final Draft 2003

The main purpose of this strategy is to review the current provision and management of parks within Southend, and to assess future needs and requirements.

The role of parks is examined under three sections:

- *“parks and people”*
- *“parks and the sustainable environment”*
- *“landscape development”*

Although this Strategy addresses wide ranging open space issues, it is relevant here because so many public sports pitches are located at venues whose main function is for informal recreation. There is potential scope for conflict between sport and general public access to recreation space. Such matters are addressed in the Parks Strategy, as well as in this report.

The Park's Strategy also contains a very useful inventory of sports facilities managed by the Borough Council within its parks, and an assessment of what work needs to be undertaken to improve quality (where required).

The Parks Strategy is, nevertheless, only a first step and will be superseded by a Green Space Strategy now in the course of preparation.

Links to other strategies and corporate planning

Since becoming a Unitary Authority in 1998, the Council has been engaged in continuous strategic policy development in order to create a framework within which to deliver its vision for the Borough's development. This process has reached a point where departments can work together and demonstrate the cross cutting agendas that are required to meet the needs of the community. This is evident from the development of departmental service plans, a new Corporate Strategy, Community Plan, Cultural Strategy, Crime and Disorder strategy, Children and Young People Plan, Best Value Performance Plan and other plans and strategies.

The wide-ranging benefits of sports and leisure development activity means that it has the ability to address the 'cross-cutting agenda', and make a positive contribution to a range of local, regional and national organisations aims and objectives.

Any playing pitch strategy (together with other strategies identified in this section) therefore sit within a wider policy framework as well as those of neighbouring authorities and many external agencies.

2.4 SUMMARY OF ISSUES

The above policy and strategy deal with different but interlocking issues and provide important context in helping to look 'in the round' at the issue of playing pitches and outdoor sports.

- The Local Plan emphasizes the importance of local spaces for outdoor sport and the need to ensure protection wherever appropriate, as well as new provision in line with development and population growth.
- The Sports and Leisure Development Strategy emphasizes the importance of open spaces (including pitches) in delivering valuable opportunities to promote health within the community. It seeks the development and improvement of facilities to meet these and other identified local needs.
- The Parks Strategy stresses the importance of open spaces for sport. However, it also stresses the primary role that local parks serve for informal recreation, and that whilst providing local sports opportunities is important this must not be to the detriment of these other roles.

Other strategies point to the cross cutting role of sport and active recreation in achieving corporate and community objectives.

There is also a 'revenue dimension' to providing opportunities to play sport, which will be critical to a successful strategy for local playing pitches. Playing fields are prerequisites for the development of pitch sports – without pitches sport would simply not take place. However, just as important as facilities are individuals, coaches, programmes and people, who are responsible for organising, managing, promoting and sustaining sport. A playing pitch strategy will not lead to increased participation and improved levels of performance by the consideration of pitch provision alone – a comprehensive review of all of the issues relating to the 'people' side of sports development is also necessary. This study must therefore be viewed in this context.

3. METHOD

3.1 OVERALL STUDY PROCESS

The study of playing pitches and other recreational open space involved a two-staged process, comprising data collection and data analysis:

- Data collection An audit was conducted of all known pitches and other relevant outdoor recreational facilities within the Borough, and an examination of their use. The audit was based on an inspection of league handbooks, contacts with local league representatives and development officers and a visit to all pitches and other potential sites within the Borough.
- Data analysis While the audit aimed to identify all pitches, an important part of the analysis was an examination of the extent to which pitches identified are available for use by 'the community' (in this case meaning the wider sporting public). The following categorisation of pitches, based on previous studies undertaken, was employed and is crucial to subsequent policy determination.

Category	Definition	Examples
A	All pitches that are in 'Secured Community Use' and are available for use at most times	Facilities in local authority or other public ownership or management, possibly on public open space. Facilities within the voluntary, private, commercial or industrial sector which serve the needs of their members or the wider public.
B	Pitches that do not fall in the above category, but nevertheless are in 'Secured Community Use' and are available for use during times of peak demand	Schools where pitches and other outdoor facilities are available to the public through community use arrangements.
C	Pitches not included in A or B that are nevertheless available for use by the community (free or for a charge) at times of peak demand	Schools and other facilities where pitches are regularly available as a matter of policy or practice to the public, through membership or admission fee, at reasonable and affordable cost
D	Pitches not currently considered to be available for community use	Schools which as a matter of policy or practice do not hire out pitches

3.2 METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

The supply of and demand for pitches were assessed using Sport England's 'Playing Pitch Methodology'

It is based on the following staged assessment.

- Stage 1** – Identifying teams
- Stage 2** – Home Games per Team per Week
- Stage 3** – Total Home Games per Week
- Stage 4** – Temporal Demand for Games
- Stage 5** – Pitches Used/Required on Each Day
- Stage 6** – Pitches Available
- Stage 7** – Identifying shortages/surpluses and discussion of any problems or issues, and
- Stage 8** – Discussion of Options

This is a well established methodology, which has recently been reviewed and republished in the document 'Towards a Level Playing Field.'

The Sport England methodology seeks to assess the specific requirements of individual teams, which it then translates into an assessment of 'peak demand' for pitches. A study based on this method can then be used to develop locally derived standards for incorporation into local plans and other policy documents.

3.3 SUB AREAS

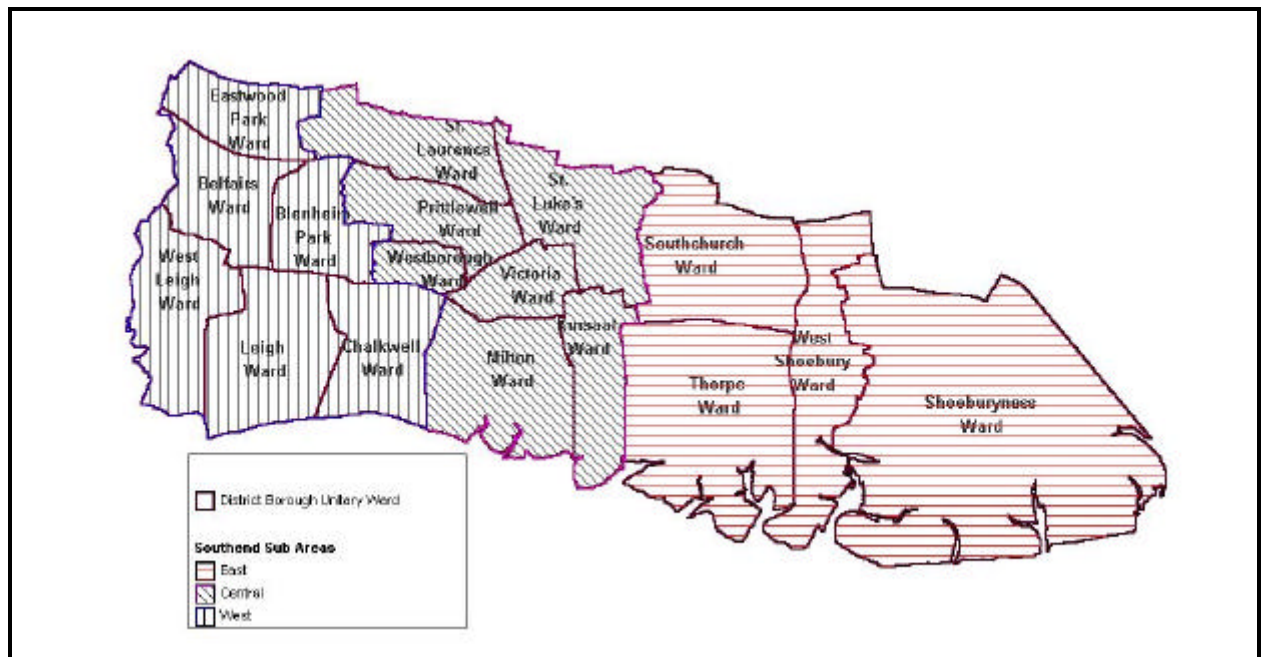
In sports terms, the extent to which players and teams are prepared to travel to play matches varies greatly depending on factors such as the standard of competition, age group, income and the geographical nature of the area. Junior leagues and teams are likely to draw their players from a small area, while adult teams, especially those in the less popular sports (in terms of participation) or at a higher standard of competition, will be prepared to travel further to play opponents or secure use of better facilities. Catchments from which teams draw players can be especially large if specialist and expensive playing facilities, such as artificial turf pitches, are concerned.

The Borough of Southend-on-Sea is very compact in geographical terms and densely populated. This has considerable implications for the provision of (land extensive) outdoor sports opportunities of all kinds. However, although small, there is geographical and demographic diversity within the Borough, and to reflect this it has been divided up into 3 sub areas.

- **East:** including the wards of Shoeburyness, West Shoebury, Southchurch, and Thorpe.
- **Central:** including the wards of Kursall, St. Lukes, Victoria, Milton, St. Laurence, Prittlewell, and Westborough.
- **West:** including the wards of Blenheim Park, Leigh, Eastwood Park, Belfairs, West Leigh, and Chalkwell.

They are shown on the following map.

The study sub areas



3.4 QUALITATIVE FACTORS

Although the methodology is based on the number of pitches available and required, information on their quality is also imperative. Due regard has therefore been paid to the existence or not of ancillary facilities (changing rooms, parking, floodlighting, etc), the quality of pitches and their maintenance, accessibility and other factors. Such considerations can influence the use and popularity of pitches among local clubs. For example, many football leagues require clubs to have access to changing and shower facilities at their home ground. The quality of drainage and playing surface will influence how many games can be played, and whether postponements have to occur. The extent to which pitches (especially in public parks) are used for other purposes can affect the quality of the playing surface – use by bicycles for example can produce rutting of the surface which is often unfair to players, if not dangerous, and regular fouling by dogs is unpleasant and a health hazard.

3.5 HOW WERE PITCHES COUNTED?

Establishing precisely how many pitches exist can prove difficult for several reasons:

- The number of pitches at a given site can fluctuate over short periods of time for reasons of management and husbandry – the findings in one season may therefore differ from those the following year.

- Goals may only be erected on match days, and site inspections may thus fail to identify pitches.
- The time of year may greatly influence the existence of pitches.
- Winter and summer pitches often occupy much of the same space, which must be considered when developing local standards.
- Junior and mini-soccer often involves portable goals and small-sided pitches are therefore often difficult to identify. Indeed, mini soccer may take place on part of a larger pitch, as is often the case with mini rugby.

Because of these problems, it was important that the study did not become a rigid 'snap-shot in time' counting exercise. The overall aim was to estimate the total capacity of the available playing field stock to provide pitches in the context of overall current and future demand. The study therefore seeks to include pitches, which are currently unused, or have fallen into disuse over the past five years, but could be used in the future.

Pitch dimensions vary for different standards of play, grades of competition and age of players, and are often in reality determined by the space available. There is a range of standards recommended by the Football Association, Sport England, NPFA, DfES, English Schools Football Association (ESFA) and others. The Laws of Football prescribe a minimum size for adult pitches, but there are no minimum or maximum dimensions for junior or youth football, and no FA stipulation that junior teams must play on junior pitches – in practice, many youth and junior teams play on full size adult pitches. The extent to which this practice occurs depends on how rigidly local league rules are enforced. The NPFA does recommend certain pitch sizes for different age groups, and the ESFA strongly recommends that for junior players of middle school age,

“wherever possible, the playing area should have a length of no more than 82m, nor less than 70m, with its breadth no more than 56m or less than 42m”.

Aside from the dimensions of the pitches themselves, the size of equipment such as goalposts should be taken into account. Although some pitches may be marked out to 'junior/youth' dimensions they are frequently still equipped with full size adult goals. It should however be noted that the Borough Council take instruction from local leagues on the required pitch dimensions for different levels of competition.

Primary school aged teams are covered by the FA's mini-soccer regulations. The FA stipulates that children must play on the following pitch sizes:

Age group	Number per team	Recommended pitch size
Over 6 and under 8	4 v 4 and 5 v 5	27.5 – 36.6m long 18.3 – 27.5m wide
Over 8 and under 10	6 v 6 and 7 v 7	45 – 55m long 27.5 – 36.6m wide

Many mini-soccer games are in fact played on part of a larger pitch, with portable goals. As suggested above this can add to the difficulty of counting pitches accurately.

3.6 PITCH AREAS

The study requires the number of pitches to be converted into an overall area. It was impossible, because of time and resource limitations, to measure every pitch, and the information on the size of playing fields was often not available. Some assumptions have therefore been made about the size of pitches, their run-off areas and other space requirements, based on guidance supplied by the NPFA (see Appendix 1).

3.7 TEAMS

Teams were counted from current local league handbooks, information provided from the club survey, league and club officials and other sources, such as local newspapers. Where it was known definitively that clubs identified in the league handbooks had folded, these were excluded. Teams were categorised as far as possible into individual age groups, based on their need for different sized pitches. For the purposes of assessing local need, the following age groups were used (where relevant).

Sport sub-group	Age group
<i>Football:</i>	
Mini-soccer (U7/U8/U9/U10s) – mixed	6–9 year olds
Junior football – boys	10–15 year olds
Junior football – girls	10–15 year olds
Men's football	16–45 year olds ²
Women's football	16–45 year olds
<i>Cricket:</i>	
Junior cricket – boys	11–17 year olds
Junior cricket – girls	11–17 year olds
Men's cricket	18–55 year olds
Women's cricket	18–55 year olds
<i>Hockey:</i>	
Junior hockey – boys	11–15 year olds
Junior hockey – girls	11–15 year olds

² The upper age is clearly only a guide, as there may be a few older players.

Sport sub-group	Age group
Men's hockey	16–45 year olds
Women's hockey	16–45 year olds
<i>Rugby union:</i>	
Mini-rugby – mixed	8–12 year olds
Junior rugby – boys	13–17 year olds
Junior rugby – girls	16–17 year olds
Men's rugby	18–45 year olds
Women's rugby	18–45 year olds
<i>Rugby league:</i>	
Junior rugby – boys	13–17 year olds
Junior rugby – girls	16–17 year olds
Senior rugby – men	18–45 year olds
Senior rugby – women	18–45 year olds

NB Kwik cricket has been excluded from the above as it can be played on any surface

This table is based on the requirements of governing bodies and is used to determine the size and nature of pitches required or recommended. However, for reasons explained below the use of these age groups in 'modeling need' relies on the availability of population data based on these age groups.

3.8 POPULATION, TEAM GENERATION RATES, AND ASSESSING FUTURE DEMAND

Population information for both the present and the anticipated time frame of the study was estimated from data derived from a variety of sources, including the Essex County Council and the Office of National Statistic (Census). However, it also takes account of projected new house building within the Borough.

Team Generation Rates (TGRs) have been used to compare activity rates with other studies elsewhere. A TGR is the result of dividing the number of teams generated in a particular area into that section of the population providing the players. This age group varies for different sports and for different age groups, as explained later in this report.

Future demand is influenced by a number of factors, none of which is easy to predict with certainty. Population changes form the baseline, but other issues such as changing fashions, the advent and success of sports development campaigns, supply-led demand and latent/suppressed demand could all affect pitch provision within the time horizon of the study.

Population change will be influenced by changes within the current population (birth, death and fertility rates etc), but also by projected new house building.

In terms of the latter it is now clear that the Borough will need to absorb substantial additional housing growth between 2001 and 2021 resulting from the implementation of revised Development Plan and Thames Gateway strategies. This level of growth will undoubtedly lead to an increased demand

for local sports facilities. However, in the absence of this injection of new housing it is also likely that the existing population will have 'aged', and this may have a downward effect on demand if more local people consider themselves no longer able to play sport.

Sometimes potential clubs/teams cannot form or survive because of a lack of pitches in an acceptable condition and at a reasonable price, or through dwindling support among administrators and support volunteers. Another constraining factor may be a lack of volunteers to run clubs. This should be factored into assessing future demand for pitches.

The Government, Sport England, local authorities, governing bodies of sport, schools and others are all involved in a range of initiatives, the aim of which is to increase choice and participation in sport. In 'A Sporting Future For All' (April 2000), the Government set out a vision and action plan for improving opportunities for sport among all groups and improving international performance. While the resources available to implement these proposals were incorporated in the document, no specific numerical targets for increased participation by the community were included.

In its strategy 'England – the Sporting Nation', the then English Sports Council in 1997 set an (ambitious) overall target of a 20% increase in the number of adults taking part in regular sporting activity by 2002, together with similar targets for more specialised areas, such as young people and extra curricular sport, improved numbers receiving coaching and better international performance. Active Sports is a development programme coordinated by Sport England and delivered by 45 partnerships throughout the country, aimed at helping young people to achieve more from their chosen sport. Nine sports are highlighted for action, including the pitch sports of hockey, rugby union/rugby league, cricket and girls' football. As part of the wider Sport England More People Programme, Active Sports aims to make a contribution to several of the strategic targets highlighted above, including a 10% increase in boys joining clubs and taking part in sport regularly, a 20% for girls and a 20% increase in overall participation by adults, especially among women.

Governing bodies of sport have for some years embraced 'abridged' versions of their sport to enable young people to develop their basic skills in a friendly environment. These include mini-soccer, mini-hockey, Kwik cricket and mini-rugby, and the indications are that early involvement in small-sided games encourages a legacy of long-term involvement in these sports.

Demand can in some instances be supply-led – that is the provision of new or improved facilities can by itself generate demand that may not have existed before. The construction of new leisure centres by local authorities in the 1970s was not generally based on detailed research of demand, but their ultimate success illustrates how demand is often articulated once new opportunities become available. Artificial Turf Pitches (STPs) demonstrate the same phenomenon. The improvement or provision of pitches and ancillary facilities could equally generate their own demand for pitch sports.

Success at the international level can often lead at least in the short term to heightened interest and greater participation. However, demand arising from such factors will peak eventually and then wane to some extent. The success of national hockey teams in the Olympics up to 1992 has been tempered by relative failure since, with a consequent effect on interest in hockey. It is clear that participation in pitch sports arising from these factors will continue to fluctuate as always.

The following table summarises the potential factors influencing latent demand for pitches.

Factor	How to take it into account
Current frustrated demand	Speak to league secretaries to gauge how many potential teams are waiting for home pitches so that they can join a league. ³
Influence of sports development campaigns	Take into account any numerical targets set in local sports development campaigns. Ensure that such targets are set and monitored in future sports development strategies. In the interim, if such targets do not exist, assume that sports development will bring about a notional percentage increase in numbers of teams (say 20%)
National sporting success, and its influence in increasing participation	Examine any long-term trend evidence that may exist (at the national and local level) to assess the impact that national sporting success has on increasing participation, as well as the extent to which any increased levels are maintained. Sources of such time sequence data might include GHS, affiliation records of local leagues (where they exist), national governing body data.
Sport in the school curriculum	If the profile of school sport is increased it may impact upon after-school clubs, inter-school matches and, ultimately, more people playing team sports beyond school hours and years.
Impact of mini sports in terms of engendering long-term increases in adult play.	In the next few years it will be possible to establish the extent to which those playing mini-soccer (for example) will have a long-term commitment to the game.

³ It is noted that the Borough Council talk regularly with local leagues to establish the number of pitches required on Council sites for each season.

Factor	How to take it into account
Lifestyle changes and other activities competing for leisure time/spend, including other forms of sport.	The effect of these other competing demands may be to reduce overall demand for formal pitch sports. For example, small-sided soccer at commercial venues may lead to fewer teams playing on Sunday mornings. On the other hand, people who start playing indoor small-sided football for fun and/or to get fit may in turn be encouraged to move onto the 11-a-side game.

The practical local effect of all factors that may influence future demand are discussed in the next section.

3.9 OTHER SPORTS

The Sport England method is concerned solely with the demand for and supply of playing pitches. The study of other outdoor sports in the Borough is therefore based on alternative methods.

3.10 KEY TERMS – DEFINITIONS

The term 'pitch' used in this study is derived from the relevant planning legislation as a delineated area, together with any run-off, of 0.4 ha. and above, and which is used for association football, American Football, rugby, cricket, hockey, lacrosse, baseball, soft-ball, Australian football, Gaelic football, shinty, hurling, polo or cycle polo. This definition originates from before the advent of mini-soccer which can have an area of 0.3 ha. including run-off. The study takes this into account.

The term 'playing field' is used to describe the whole of a site which includes at least one pitch.

4. SUPPLY OF AND DEMAND FOR PITCHES

4.1 GENERAL SUPPLY OF PITCHES IN THE STUDY AREA

There are estimated to be 123 pitches in total in the Borough, including 119 in community use (A - C), of which 83 are in secured community use (A – B).

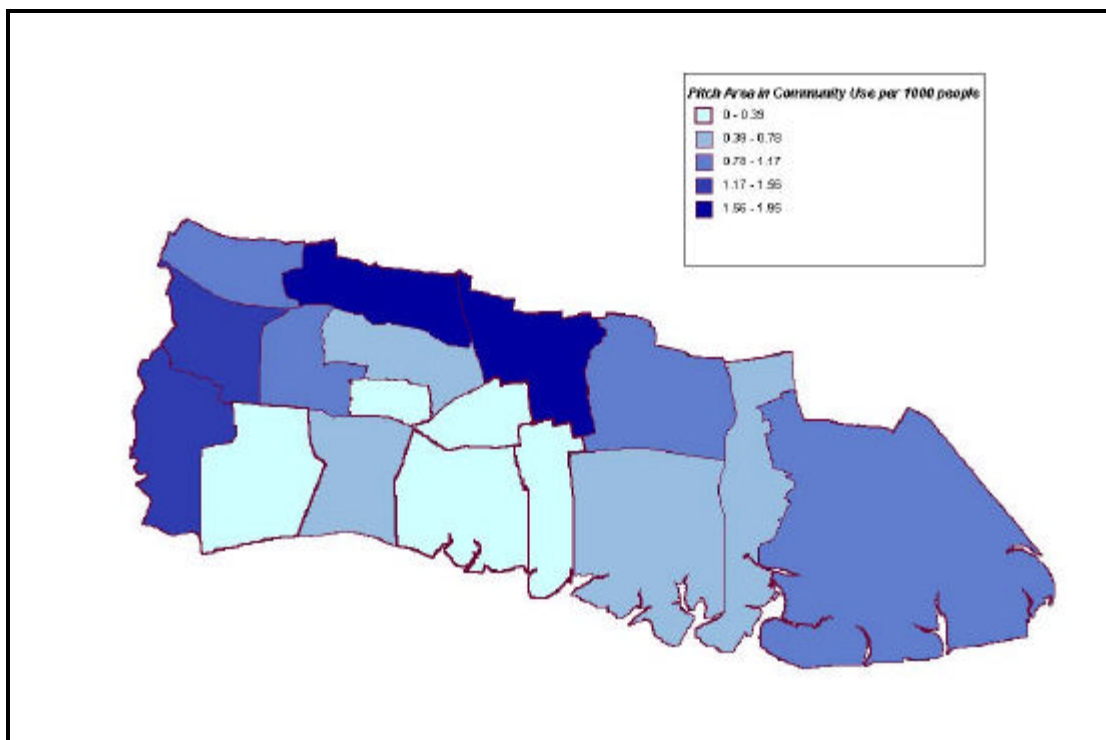
There are 106.44 ha. of pitches in community use (0.66 ha. per 1000 people) or 83.76 ha. in secured community use (0.52 ha. per 1000 population). For illustration only, this compares with a recommended minimum level of 193.91 hectares of pitches in the Borough if the relevant component of the well-established NPFA Six Acre Standard is applied (1.21 ha. per 1000 population.)

Although the NPFA guidance cannot be used as a local measure of deficiency, the comparison does indicate that by some traditionally accepted measures of supply, local provision is not good.

The provision of pitch space can be broken down as follows according to the sub areas within the Borough.

Area	Area of Pitches (ha) in Community Use (A, B, C)	Area of Pitches (ha) in Secured Community Use (A, B)
East	23.96 (0.63 per 1000 people)	21.2 (0.55 per 1000 people)
Central	37 (0.48 per 1000 people)	24.9 (0.33 per 1000 people)
West	43.02 (0.94 per 1000 people)	35.2 (0.76 per 1000 people)

The following map shows the amount of pitch space in community use per 1000 people by individual wards.



As can be seen from the above table and map there is a wide variation in the level of provision in the different parts of the Borough. It is also notable from the map that provision per head of population is much better on the eastern, western and northern edges of the Borough, and worst in the very densely developed central wards.

In terms of the level of provision for each sport, the supply is as follows.

Availability	Sen football	Jun football	Mini soccer	Cricket	Rugby Union	Hockey (grass)	ATP ⁴
A	39	1	0	16	0	0	0
B	10	7	13	0	0	0	0
C	10	4	9	2	3	0	1
	59	12	22	18	3	0	1

The only grass pitches within the Borough that are not included in this table are the Southend UFC stadium and training pitches (none of which are in community use). Neither does the table include those pitches located just outside the Borough, and which are used by clubs/teams from within Southend. These pitches are identified in the schedule provided as an appendix to this report.

The preponderance of football pitches not only reflects the sports comparative popularity, but also its prominence in the school curriculum (given that many pitches are on school sites). As will be seen, provision of pitches is dominated by those that can be described as being in Secured Community Use.

⁴ This figure includes only full-size, floodlit ATPs.

Community use and public access is important in encouraging participation both at an informal level (i.e. for kickabouts) but also at basic levels of formal play, where most clubs/teams tend to rely on facilities owned/managed by others. Lack of community use on some sites is not necessarily a 'bad thing', as it is important that a reasonable proportion of pitches are available and of sufficient quality to host higher levels of competitive play, and therefore limited to use by clubs and teams playing at that level. The key is obviously that enough facilities are publicly accessible so as not to stymie the growth of sport and healthy active outdoor recreation at the basic community level.

The total number of pitches in the study area equates to one pitch per 1,885 people (senior pitches only to allow comparison with other studies) as follows:

Local Authority	Ratio (persons per pitch)
Kennet	365
Bromley	602
Cambridge Area	621
Hounslow	625
Carlisle	640
Daventry Town	658
Lincolnshire	684
Castle Morpeth	718
Leicestershire	747
Stevenage	852
King's Lynn and West Norfolk	955
St. Helens	970
Portsmouth	1,087
Easington	1,093
Sheffield City	1,133
Thurrock	1,150
Wansbeck	1,164
Redcar and Cleveland	1,269
Sheffield City	1,133
Great Yarmouth	1,358
Peterborough	1,359
<i>Southend</i>	<i>1,885</i>
Southwark	2,842
Average	1040

Note: the above figures are from studies either undertaken by ourselves or others that have employed a similar methodology. Accordingly, we are reasonably confident that comparisons are generally like for like.

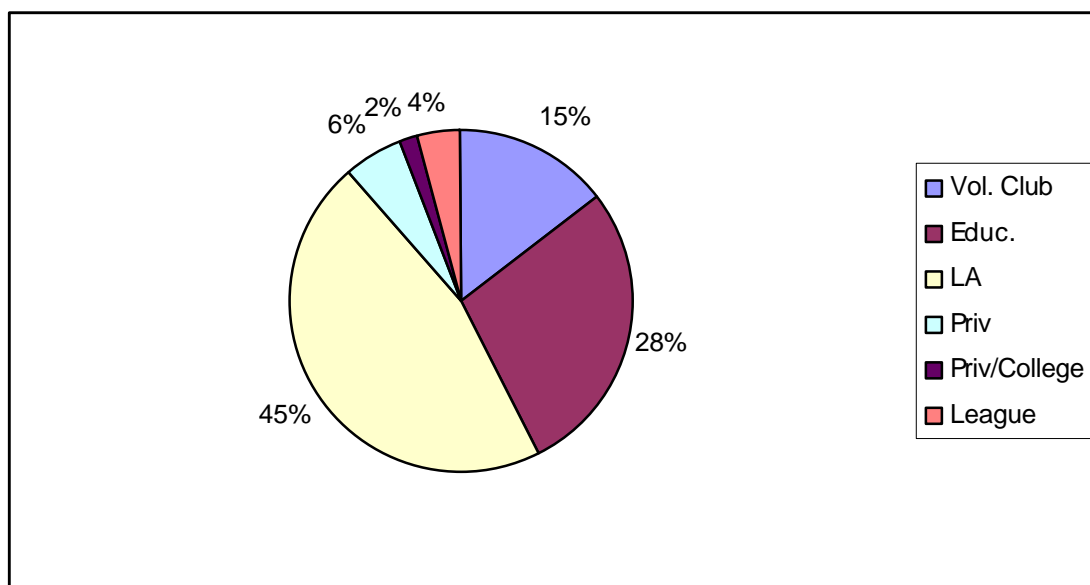
The figures cover a range of areas from rural to heavily urbanised, but the Borough wide figure is significantly higher (i.e. worse) than the average.

Local ratios for specific sports pitches (full-sized) have been compared with the national picture as far as it is known in the following table.

	Southend	England
Senior Football	1:2,543	1:1,840
Cricket	1:8,903	1:4,243
Hockey/ATP	1:160,257	1:8,968
Rugby	1:53,419	1:8,271

The Borough therefore has comparatively poor levels of provision across all the above groups when compared with the known national averages. These figures should be treated with some caution as all pitches, whether available to the community or not, are included and the comparative national data is derived from an unpublished Sports Council document from 1990 and is therefore somewhat dated. Comparisons for hockey are especially spurious, as the data for the 1990 report would have included grass pitches, whereas hockey is now played primarily on artificial turf, which has led to a decrease in the number of hockey pitches as clubs rely on fewer facilities.

Ownership The pattern of ownership for all pitches in the Borough is set out below.



This demonstrates that 45% of all pitches are owned and managed by the local authorities, parish councils and other public bodies (similar to the known national average of 43%), the proportion of the total stock composed of school pitches is 28% (national average of 29%).

Voluntary clubs also make an important contribution to the supply of pitches.

Quality This matter is discussed in more detail later in this section. However, the following general conclusions emerge from surveys and questionnaire responses on the quality of pitches and ancillary facilities:

- A concern in many cases over the quality of pitches, especially those in the public sector. Pitches that appear to be subject to most complaint from players are those on 'public space'.
- A major concern over the poor quality of ancillary facilities on some sites, especially changing accommodation.
- Few clubs would appear to have any security of tenure, and control over the management and maintenance of their own facilities normally tend to have the best facilities.
- In general clubs and teams do not appear to suffer problems in securing access to pitches for their matches. However, there may be an imbalance in some sub areas in respect of certain types of pitch. There are also contrasting pressures in terms of usage of pitches between the sub areas. These issues are discussed further later in this section.

Detailed quality considerations are dealt with under individual sports later in this section

4.2 PARTICIPATION IN PITCH SPORTS

Current Participation and Past Trends. National participation figures for sport are derived from the General Household Survey (GHS), the latest information on sport being available from the 1996 survey.

Sports	1987	1990	1993	1996
Walking	37.0%	40.7	40.8	44.5
Swimming	13.0	14.8	15.4	14.8
Keep fit/yoga	8.6	11.6	15.4	14.8
Snooker/pool/billiards	15.0	13.6	12.2	11.3
Cycling	8.4	9.3	10.2	11.0
Weight training	4.5	4.8	5.5	5.6
Soccer	4.8	4.6	4.5	4.8
Golf	3.9	5.0	4.6	4.5
Running/jogging	5.2	5.0	4.6	4.5
Tenpin bowling/skittles	1.8	3.8	4.0	3.4
Badminton	3.4	3.3	2.7	2.4
Tennis	1.8	2.0	2.1	2.0
Bowls	1.7	2.1	2.0	1.9
Fishing	1.9	2.0	2.0	1.7
Table tennis	2.4	2.0	1.7	1.5
Squash	2.6	2.5	1.9	1.3
Horse riding	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0

Of the pitch sports, only football appears amongst the 10 most popular activities, with 4.8% of the adult population taking part in 1996. Cricket (0.9%), rugby (0.6%) and hockey (0.3%) are much less significant.

Trends are notoriously difficult to predict and GHS figures must be treated with caution as totals are low and information in successive GHS years is sometimes presented slightly differently. It is necessary to consider other sources of information.

- Football. The FA estimates that there are over 40,000 affiliated football clubs in England with 1.5m adult players and 5m junior players. Participation in senior football is likely to remain static in the foreseeable future. However a variety of local pitch assessments all suggest that mini-soccer is thriving. Although football is mainly a male sport and at adult level in a static state, growth in female participation has increased dramatically. In 1990 there were 80 girls teams, but by 1998 this had grown to 1,000. Female players increased from 21,500 in 1996 to 34,000 in 1998. The Football Association on its website estimates that there are currently around 80,000 affiliated female footballers in England. This however, is out of a total of an estimated 3 million affiliated players (about 2.5%). The current growth may very be rapid, but it is off a very small base.
- Hockey. The advent of artificial turf pitches led to increased participation in hockey. English Hockey estimates that 0.5m adults play hockey at least once a year and there are about 100,000 regular adult players, the slight majority being men. Clubs are decreasing in number, but fielding more teams (50% of clubs run more than 4 teams), although women's clubs run fewer than men's. The majority of clubs have increasing or steady membership. Almost 50% of children have taken part in hockey over the previous 12 months, although outside school lessons it ranks only 26th of all sports in popularity. 80% of clubs use pitches not associated with a dedicated clubhouse, and 63% of clubs travel between 5 and 20 minutes to get from their pitch to the post-match social venue.
- Rugby. The RFU estimates that there are over 0.5m regular rugby players each weekend. Increased media exposure, the formation of leagues, professionalism and the success of especially the British Lions and English teams suggest that levels of participation in rugby will at least hold up. The RFU website claims women's rugby to be 'one of the fastest growing women's sports', with now over 230 clubs and 8,000 regular participants. The formation of a network of regional RFU development officers, the development of mini and non-contact rugby have combined to make the sport very much more popular among younger players.

- Cricket. The (until recent) poor performance of the England side and the decline of cricket as a curriculum sport may suggest that participation in cricket is on the wane, although the Chairman of the ECB recently claimed that more people are playing than ever before. The advent of soft-ball initiatives, such as Kwik Cricket, and the more recent establishment of County Development Officers, in the overall context of a fundamental review of cricket at all levels, is aimed at increasing junior participation. Cricket is also actively seeking the development of female participation. The ECB website recently claimed that ‘the number of primary school girls involved has recently increased from 350,000 to 435,000, and secondary schools from 139,000 to 175,000’. Most women’s teams are incorporated into men’s clubs.

4.3 THE SITUATION IN SOUTHEND BOROUGH

4.4 FOOTBALL

Players and Teams The clubs and teams known to be based in the Borough are summarised below.

It was necessary to conduct much of the research work for this study during the close season for football, and at a time when the leagues’ own affiliation records were being revised, and fixtures and venues were still being finalized.

Between seasons, some teams will establish and fold, and clubs may also increase or decrease the number of teams, and their home venues may change. Therefore the schedule does not necessarily reflect the situation for this season, although it will provide a reasonably accurate picture.

The table differentiates between senior, junior/youth and mini teams, although junior teams do not necessarily have access to junior pitches (for the purpose of this study, it is assumed that junior teams up to under 15s desire reduced junior size pitches, while under 16 and under 17 teams can play on adult pitches)

There are estimated to be 119 adult, 51 junior, and 79 mini soccer teams within the study area. Making an allowance for team squads, this number of teams yields an estimated 1785 adult, 765 junior, and 632 mini soccer regular players within the Borough. Almost all these players will be male, with the greatest representation of females being in mini soccer.

Team	Count	Age	Day/time	Venue	Sub Area
Advante FC	1	Adult	sunam	Blenheim Park 8	west
Airborne UFC	1	Adult	satpm	Garons Park	central
Ambleside Vets FC	1	Adult	sunam	Thorpe Bay High School	east
Ambleside Vets FC	1	Adult	sunam	Thorpe Bay High School	east
Anchor Athletic FC	1	Adult	sunam	Thorpe Bay High School	east
Bell Sports FC	1	Adult	sunam	Victory Sports Ground	central
Bellevue Wanderers FC	1	Adult	sunam	Thorpe Bay High School	east

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Team	Count	Age	Day/time	Venue	Sub Area
BKS Sports FC	1	Adult	satpm	Victory Sports Ground	central
Blades FC	1	Adult	sunam	Blenheim Park 9	west
Blues Youth FC	1	Adult	sunam	Shoebury High School	east
Blues Youth FC 2	1	Adult	sunam	Shoebury High School	east
Borough Rovers FC	1	Adult	satpm	Victory Sports Ground	central
Borough Rovers FC 2	1	Adult	satpm	Southchurch Park	east
Bournemouth UFC	1	Adult	sunam	Central Belfairs	west
Brit Academicals FC	1	Adult	sunam	Victory Sports Ground	central
Broker Freehouse FC	1	Adult	sunam	Blenheim Park	west
Brook Sports FC	1	Adult	satpm	Central Belfairs	west
Callback FC	1	Adult	sunam	Central Belfairs	west
Carlyle Sports FC	1	adult	sunam	Thorpe Bay High School	east
Carlyle Sports FC 2	1	adult	sunam	Thorpe Bay High School	east
Catholic UFC	1	adult	satpm	Victory Sports Ground	central
Catholic UFC 4	1	adult	sunam	Eastwood Park	west
Cavaliers FC	1	adult	sunam	Eastwoodbury Lane	west
Chemico Southend FC	1	adult	satpm	Ecko Sportsground	central
Cockney Locomotive FC	1	adult	sunam	Blenheim Park	west
Darby County FC	1	adult	sunam	Heathfield Sports Club (Wellstead Gardens)	west
Earls Hall UFC	1	adult	satpm	Victory Sports Ground	central
Earls Hall UFC 2	1	adult	satpm	Bournes Green Park	east
Eastwoodbury Ramblers FC	1	adult	sunam	Eastwoodbury Park	west
Ecko Thames Park FC	1	adult	satpm	Ecko Sportsground	central
Ecko Thames Park FC 3	1	adult	satpm	Ecko Sportsground	central
Ecko Thames Park FC 4	1	adult	satpm	Ecko Sportsground	central
Eltonians FC	1	adult	sunam	Shoebury Park	east
Ensign FC 1	1	adult	satpm	Eastwoodbury Lane	west
Ensign FC 2	1	adult	satpm	Eastwoodbury Lane	west
Ensign FC 3	1	adult	satpm	Eastwoodbury Lane	west
Ensign FC 4	1	adult	satpm	Eastwoodbury Lane	west
Fairfax Rangers FC 1	1	adult	sunam	Westcliff High School	west
Fairfax Rangers FC 2	1	adult	sunam	Westcliff High School	west
Fairfax UFC	1	adult	sunam	Victory Sports Ground	central
Fairview Rangers FC	1	adult	sunam	Priory Park	central
First Manor FC	1	adult	sunam	Southchurch Park	east
Globe UFC	1	adult	sunam	Belfairs Park 7	west
Globe UFC 2	1	adult	sunam	Belfairs Park 7a	west
Grove Sports FC	1	adult	sunam	Oakwood Park	west
Hawthorns FC	1	adult	sunam	Oakwood Park	west
High Bank FC	1	adult	satpm	Blenheim Park	west
International PMS FC	1	adult	satpm	Eastwoodbury Lane	west
International PMS FC 2	1	adult	satpm	Eastwoodbury Lane	west
King Casuals FC	1	adult	satpm	Garons Park	central
King Casuals FC 2	1	adult	satpm	Garons Park	central
Kingston Athletic FC	1	adult	sunam	Eastwood Park	west
Kursaal Flyers	1	adult	sunam	Thorpe Bay High School	east
Landsdowne Rangers FC	1	adult	sunam	Oakwood Park	west
Leigh Ramblers FC 1	1	adult	satpm	Belfairs North	west
Leigh Ramblers FC 3	1	adult	satpm	Belfairs North	west
Leigh Ramblers FC 4	1	adult	satpm	Belfairs North	west

Southend-on-Sea Playing Pitch Strategy

Team	Count	Age	Day/time	Venue	Sub Area
Leigh Ramblers Vets FC	1	adult	sunam	Warners Park/Youth Ground/Fairway School	central
Leigh Times FC	1	adult	satpm	Central Belfairs	west
Leigh Town FC	1	adult	satpm	Victory Sports Ground	central
Leigh Town FC 2	1	adult	satpm	Blenheim Park	west
Leighbri FC	1	adult	sunam	Bournes Green Park	east
Lions FC	1	adult	sunam	Eastwood Park	west
Little Theatre Club FC 1	1	adult	satpm	Blenheim Park	west
Little Theatre Club FC 2	1	adult	satpm	Blenheim Park	west
Lowbridge Sports FC	1	adult	sunam	Oakwood Park	west
Magpie Rangers FC	1	adult	sunam	Southchurch Park	east
Monaco Sports FC	1	adult	sunam	Victory Sports Ground	central
Nearleigh Athletic FC	1	adult	sunam	Westcliff High School	west
Nubarn Athletic FC	1	adult	satpm	Shoebury Park	east
Old Southendian FC 1	1	adult	satpm	Warner's Bridge	central
Old Southendian FC 2	1	adult	satpm	Warner's Bridge	west
Old Southendian FC 3	1	adult	satpm	Warner's Bridge	central
Panalo FC	1	adult	satpm	Blenheim Park	west
Plough FC	1	adult	sunam	Westcliff High School	west
Portdean Lion FC	1	adult	sunam	Central Belfairs	west
Prittlewell FC	1	adult	sunam	Bournes Green Park	east
Seasiders FC	1	adult	sunam	Eastwood Park	west
Shoebury Old Boys FC	1	adult	satpm	Elm Road Sportsground	east
Shoebury Old Boys FC 2	1	adult	satpm	Elm Road Sportsground	east
Shoebury Town FC	1	adult	satpm	Shoebury Park	east
Shoebury Town FC 2	1	adult	satpm	Shoebury Park	east
Smith's Sport FC	1	adult	satpm	Southchurch Park	east
Sorrento Sports FC	1	adult	sunam	Shoebury Park	east
South Essex College FC	1	adult	satpm	Victory Sports Ground	central
Southend Collegians FC 1+A57	1	adult	satpm	Eastwoodbury Lane	west
Southend Collegians FC 2	1	adult	satpm	Eastwoodbury Lane	west
Southend Collegians FC 3	1	adult	satpm	Eastwoodbury Lane	west
Southend Collegians FC 4	1	adult	satpm	Eastwoodbury Lane	west
Southend Manor FC 1	1	adult	satpm	Southchurch Park Arena	east
Southend Manor FC 2	1	adult	satpm	Southchurch Park Arena	east
Southend Manor U17s FC	1	adult	satpm	Jones Memorial Ground	east
Southend Manor U18s FC	1	adult	satpm	Jones Memorial Ground	east
Spread Eagle FC	1	adult	sunam	Shoebury Park	east
Sutton Sports FC	1	adult	sunam	Belfairs Park	west
The Plough FC	1	adult	sunam	Westcliff High School for Boys	west
Thorpe Athletic FC	1	adult	satpm	Bournes Green Park	east
Thorpe Athletic FC 2	1	adult	satpm	Bournes Green Park	east
Towerfield Rangers FC	1	adult	sunam	Thorpe Bay High School	east
Track Back FC	1	adult	satpm	Central Belfairs	west
Trinity (Southend) FC	1	adult	sunam	Garons Park	central
Urban Kings FC	1	adult	sunam	Westcliff High School for Boys	west
Victoria Athletico FC	1	adult	sunam	Victory Sports Ground	central
Weir Sports FC	1	adult	satpm	Garons Park	central

Southend-on-Sea Playing Pitch Strategy

Team	Count	Age	Day/time	Venue	Sub Area
Weir Sports FC 2	1	adult	satpm	Garons Park	central
Weir Sports FC 3	1	adult	satpm	Garons Park	central
Westcliff Amateurs FC	1	adult	satpm	Victory Sports Ground	central
Woodcutters Wanderers FC	1	adult	sunam	Oakwood Park	west
Zebra Sports FC	1	adult	satpm	Westcliff High School	west
Zenith Athenians	1	adult	satpm	Bournes Green Park	east
Zeus FC	1	adult	sunam	Eastwoodbury Lane	west
Catholic UFC 2	1	adult	satpm	Priory Park	central
Catholic UFC 3	1	adult	satpm	Priory Park	central
Essendon FC	1	adult	satpm	Eastwood Park	west
Estuary Athletic FC	1	adult	satpm	Oakwood Park	west
Glenwood FC	1	adult	satpm	Eastwood Park	west
Novar ED and S FC	1	adult	satpm	Eastwood Park	west
Southend Rangers FC	1	adult	satpm	Oakwood Park	west
Southend Rangers FC 2	1	adult	satpm	Oakwood Park	west
	119				
Thorpe Athletic Junior YFC	1	j/y	sunam	Thorpe Bay High School	east
Canterbury Harriers YFC	1	j/y	sunam	Southend High School	west
Dons Academy U12 YFC	1	j/y	sunam/pm	Priory Park	central
Ecko Whitecaps U11 YFC	1	j/y	sunam/pm	Ecko Sportsground	central
Ecko Whitecaps U12 YFC 1	1	j/y	sunam/pm	Ecko Sportsground	central
Ecko Whitecaps U12 YFC 2	1	j/y	sunam/pm	Ecko Sportsground	central
Ecko Whitecaps U13 YFC 1	1	j/y	sunam/pm	Ecko Sportsground	central
Ecko Whitecaps U13 YFC 2	1	j/y	sunam/pm	Ecko Sportsground	central
Ecko Whitecaps U14 YFC 1	1	j/y	sunam/pm	Ecko Sportsground	central
Ecko Whitecaps U14 YFC 2	1	j/y	sunam/pm	Ecko Sportsground	central
Ecko Whitecaps U15 YFC 1	1	j/y	sunam/pm	Ecko Sportsground	central
Ecko Whitecaps U15 YFC 2	1	j/y	sunam/pm	Ecko Sportsground	central
Ecko Whitecaps U16 YFC	1	j/y	sunam/pm	Ecko Sportsground	central
Elmwood Colts U11 YFC	1	j/y	sunam	Jones Memorial Ground/Youth Ground	central
Elmwood Colts U11 YFC 2	1	j/y	sunam	Jones Memorial Ground/Youth Ground	central
Elmwood Colts U12 YFC	1	j/y	sunam	Jones Memorial Ground/Youth Ground	central
Elmwood Colts U12 YFC 2	1	j/y	sunam	Jones Memorial Ground/Youth Ground	central
Elmwood Colts U13 YFC	1	j/y	sunam	Jones Memorial Ground/Youth Ground	central
Elmwood Colts U13 YFC 2	1	j/y	sunam	Jones Memorial Ground/Youth Ground	central
Elmwood Colts U15 YFC	1	j/y	sunam	Jones Memorial Ground/Youth Ground	central
Fairfax Rangers U12 YFC	1	j/y	sunam	Westcliff High School	west
Fairfax Rangers U13 YFC	1	j/y	sunam	Westcliff High School	west
Fairfax Rangers U15 YFC	1	j/y	sunam	Westcliff High School	west

Southend-on-Sea Playing Pitch Strategy

Team	Count	Age	Day/time	Venue	Sub Area
Hamlet Court U11 YFC	1	j/y	sunam	Waners Park/Southend Junior School/Jones Memorial Ground	central
Hamlet Court U11 YFC 2	1	j/y	sunam	Waners Park/Southend Junior School/Jones Memorial Ground	central
Hotspurs YFC U13 YFC	1	j/y	sunam	Council pitch/Jones Memorial Ground/Youth ground	central
Hotspurs YFC U15 YFC	1	j/y	sunam	Council pitch/Jones Memorial Ground/Youth ground	central
Kingsfield U13 YFC	1	j/y	sunam	Shoebury High School	east
Leigh Ramblers U11 YFC	1	j/y	sunam	Warners Park/Youth Ground/Fairway School	central
Parkside Swifts YFC	1	j/y	sunam	Youth Ground/Priory Park	central
Parkside Tigers YFC	1	j/y	sunam	Jones Memorial Ground	central
Regis Boys YFC	1	j/y	sunam	Priory Park	central
Rockets U12 YFC	1	j/y	sunam	Various school and council	east
Rockets U12 YFC 2	1	j/y	sunam	Various school and council	east
Rockets U15 YFC	1	j/y	sunam	Various school and council	east
Shoebury Boys U11 YFC	1	j/y	sunam	Elm Road Sportsground	east
Shoebury Boys U12 YFC	1	j/y	sunam	Elm Road Sportsground	east
Shoebury Boys U12 YFC 2	1	j/y	sunam	Elm Road Sportsground	east
Southend Manor Junior U15 YFC	1	j/y	sunam	Jones Memorial Ground	central
Southend Manor U11 YFC	1	j/y	sunam	Jones Memorial Ground	central
Southend Manor U12 YFC	1	j/y	sunam	Jones Memorial Ground	central
Southend Manor U13 YFC	1	j/y	sunam	Jones Memorial Ground	central
Southend United YFC	1	j/y	satam	Roots Hall/Southend UFC training ground	central
Thames Park YFC	1	j/y	sunam	Priory Park	central
Trinity Juniors U11 YFC	1	j/y	sunam	Youth Ground	central
Trinity Juniors U13 YFC	1	j/y	sunam	Youth Ground	central
Trinity Juniors U13 YFC 2	1	j/y	sunam	Youth Ground	central
Trinity Juniors U13 YFC 2	1	j/y	sunam	Youth Ground	central
Trinity Juniors U15 YFC	1	j/y	sunam	Youth Ground	central
Trinity United U12 YFC	1	j/y	sunam	Youth Ground	central
Tuscan YFC	1	j/y	sunam	Westcliff School/Southend High School	west
	51				
Blues Youth Lions U7 FC	1	mini	sunam	Shoebury High School	east
Blues Youth Lions U8 FC	1	mini	sunam	Shoebury High School	east
Blues Youth Tigers U8 FC	1	mini	sunam	Shoebury High School	east
Blues Youth Tigers U9 FC	1	mini	sunam	Shoebury High School	east
Blues Youth U10 FC	1	mini	sunam	Shoebury High School	east
Blues Youth U9 FC	1	mini	sunam	Shoebury High School	east
Catholic United Tigers U8 FC	1	mini	sunam	St. Helen's Catholic Primary School	West
Catholic United Leopards U8 FC	1	mini	sunam	St. Helen's Catholic Primary School	West
Catholic United Lions U8 FC	1	mini	sunam	St. Helen's Catholic Primary School	West
Catholic United U10 FC	1	mini	sunam	Westcliff High School	West

Southend-on-Sea Playing Pitch Strategy

Team	Count	Age	Day/time	Venue	Sub Area
Catholic United U10 FC 2	1	mini	sunam	Westcliff High School	West
Catholic United U10 FC 3	1	mini	sunam	Westcliff High School	West
Catholic United U9 FC	1	mini	sunam	Westcliff High School	West
Catholic United U9 FC 2	1	mini	sunam	Westcliff High School	West
Catholic United U9 FC 3	1	mini	sunam	Westcliff High School	West
Catholic United Youth Leopards U7 FC	1	mini	sunam	Westcliff High School	West
Catholic United Youth Lions U7 FC	1	mini	sunam	Westcliff High School	West
Catholic United Youth Tigers U7 FC	1	mini	sunam	Westcliff High School	West
Dons Academy U10 FC	1	mini	sunam	Priory Park	Central
Ecko Whitecaps U8 YFC	1	mini	sunam	Ecko Sportsground	Central
Ecko Whitecaps U9 YFC 1	1	mini	sunam	Ecko Sportsground	Central
Ecko Whitecaps U9 YFC 2	1	mini	sunam	Ecko Sportsground	Central
Ecko Whitecaps U10 YFC 1	1	mini	sunam	Ecko Sportsground	Central
Ecko Whitecaps U10 YFC 2	1	mini	sunam	Ecko Sportsground	Central
Elmwood Colts Lions U7 FC	1	mini	sunam	Jones Memorial Ground/Youth Ground	Central
Elmwood Colts Lions U8 FC	1	mini	sunam	Jones Memorial Ground/Youth Ground	Central
Elmwood Colts U9 FC	1	mini	sunam	Jones Memorial Ground/Youth Ground	Central
Fairfax Rangers Lions U7 FC	1	mini	sunam	Westcliff High School	west
Fairfax Rangers U10 FC	1	mini	sunam	Westcliff High School	West
Fairfax Rangers U8 FC	1	mini	sunam	Westcliff High School	West
Hambro Colts Lions U7 FC	1	mini	sunam	Edwards Hall Junior School	West
Hambro Colts Lions U8 FC	1	mini	sunam	Edwards Hall Junior School	West
Hambro Colts Tigers U8 FC	1	mini	sunam	Edwards Hall Junior School	West
Hambro Colts U10 FC	1	mini	sunam	Edwards Hall Junior School	West
Hambro Colts U10 FC 2	1	mini	sunam	Edwards Hall Junior School	West
Hambro Colts U9 FC	1	mini	sunam	Edwards Hall Junior School	West
Hambro Colts U9 FC 2	1	mini	sunam	Edwards Hall Junior School	West
Hambro Colts U9 FC 3	1	mini	sunam	Edwards Hall Junior School	West
Hamlet Court U10 FC	1	mini	sunam	Waners Park/Southend Junior School/Jones Memorial Ground	central
Leigh Ramblers Leopards U7 FC	1	mini	sunam	Warners Park/Youth Ground/Fairway School	central
Leigh Ramblers Lions U7 FC	1	mini	sunam	Warners Park/Youth Ground/Fairway School	central
Leigh Ramblers Tigers U7 FC	1	mini	sunam	Warners Park/Youth Ground/Fairway School	central
Leigh Ramblers U10 FC	1	mini	sunam	Warners Park/Youth Ground/Fairway School	central
Leigh Ramblers U10 FC 2	1	mini	sunam	Warners Park/Youth Ground/Fairway School	central
Leigh Ramblers U10 FC 3	1	mini	sunam	Warners Park/Youth Ground/Fairway School	central
Leigh Ramblers U8 FC	1	mini	sunam	Warners Park/Youth Ground/Fairway School	central
Leigh Ramblers U8 FC 2	1	mini	sunam	Warners Park/Youth Ground/Fairway School	central
Leigh Ramblers U8 FC 3	1	mini	sunam	Warners Park/Youth Ground/Fairway School	central
Leigh Ramblers U8 FC 4	1	mini	sunam	Warners Park/Youth	central

Team	Count	Age	Day/time	Venue	Sub Area
				Ground/Fairway School	
Leigh Ramblers U9 FC	1	mini	sunam	Warners Park/Youth Ground/Fairway School	central
Leigh Ramblers U9 FC	1	mini	sunam	Warners Park/Youth Ground/Fairway School	central
Leigh Ramblers U9 FC	1	mini	sunam	Warners Park/Youth Ground/Fairway School	central
Leigh Ramblers U9 FC 2	1	mini	sunam	Warners Park/Youth Ground/Fairway School	central
Red Devils U10 FC	1	mini	sunam	Blenheim Primary School	west
Rockets Leopards U9 FC	1	mini	sunam	Various school and council	East
Rockets Lions U8 FC	1	mini	sunam	Various school and council	East
Rockets Tigers U10 FC	1	mini	sunam	Various school and council	East
Rockets Tigers U8 FC	1	mini	sunam	Various school and council	East
Rockets Tigers U9 FC	1	mini	sunam	Various school and council	East
Rockets U10 FC	1	mini	sunam	Various school and council	East
Rockets U9 FC	1	mini	sunam	Various school and council	East
Shoebury Boys Lions U7 FC	1	mini	sunam	Elm Road Sportsground	East
Shoebury Boys U10 FC	1	mini	sunam	Elm Road Sportsground	East
Shoebury Boys U10 FC 2	1	mini	sunam	Elm Road Sportsground	East
Shoebury Boys U9 FC	1	mini	sunam	Elm Road Sportsground	East
Shoebury Boys U9 FC 2	1	mini	sunam	Elm Road Sportsground	East
Shore Athletic Lions U7 FC	1	mini	sunam	Shoeburyness High School	East
Shore Athletic U10 FC	1	mini	sunam	Shoeburyness High School	East
Shore Athletic U10 FC 2	1	mini	sunam	Shoeburyness High School	East
Shore Athletic U8 FC	1	mini	sunam	Shoeburyness High School	East
Shore Athletic U9 FC	1	mini	sunam	Shoeburyness High School	East
Southend Manor Lions U7 FC	1	mini	sunam	Jones Memorial Ground	central
Southend Manor U? YF	1	mini	sunam	Jones Memorial Ground	central
Southend Manor U10 FC	1	mini	sunam	Jones Memorial Ground	central
Southend Manor U9 FC	1	mini	sunam	Jones Memorial Ground	central
Southend Manor U9 FC 2	1	mini	sunam	Jones Memorial Ground	central
Trinity Juniors U10 FC	1	mini	sunam	Youth Ground	central
Trinity Juniors U10 FC 2	1	mini	sunam	Youth Ground	central
Trinity Juniors U9 FC	1	mini	sunam	Youth Ground	central
	79				

In addition to these teams there are some others that clearly have an affinity with Southend Borough in terms of their names and (probably) many of their members, but which play outside the Borough. These are discussed again later in this section.

The following leagues are known to operate in the area:

- The Southend Borough Combination League
- The Southend Borough Combination Veterans League
- The Southend Sunday League
- The Southend and District Junior Sunday League
- The South East Essex Primary Minisoccer League

Southend United Football Club plays in the Nationwide Football League and is therefore outside the scope of this study. Southend Manor Football Club plays in the Essex Senior League, the Essex and Herts Border League, and the Essex Junior Alliance League.

The requirement to accommodate the large number of games generated by these leagues calls for many pitches of different sizes to be available at different times; primarily at the weekend, but also sometimes during the week. In addition to the league matches, there will also be the various local cup competitions that take place towards the end of the season. Whilst these do not necessarily increase the number of games played during a week, they will of course extend the playing season and therefore the number of games many pitches have to accommodate.

Therefore any future strategy for the development and management of playing pitches in the Borough must look at their ability to absorb the normal wear and tear over the course of a season.

Unsurprisingly, most players tend to be drawn from a fairly small catchment area, mainly less than 5 miles from the home ground. At higher levels of competition players may come from farther away, but in general local clubs are fulfilling a local need and playing on local pitches.

Team Generation Rates (TGRs) are the ratio between the number of teams within a defined area, and the total population within a given age range for that area. TGRs for football in previous studies have been calculated for the 10-44 years age group, as this tends to be the 'football team generating' section of the population most closely coinciding with available population data. Identifying TGRs provides the means to:

- Compare participation in competitive football between the Borough and other areas where similar studies have been undertaken, and therefore identify how typical is local participation.
- Assist modelling future demand for pitches.

TGRs essentially reflect the status quo, as they are based on existing teams, and may therefore ignore 'potential' teams. Other shortcomings can include an inability to:

- differentiate between local demand and that generated by teams traveling into an area to play their home games.
- help model demand where team generation may be constrained through a shortage of facilities.
- project demand in areas of rapid housing growth, where there is currently no team generation.

Latent and other demand must therefore be considered, but TGRs are useful as a means of assessing basic existing provision.

By dividing the estimated number of football teams catering for players of 10 years old and over within the Borough by the estimated number of males aged 10-44 (40,600), a TGR of 1:239 is produced. This can be compared with estimated TGRs for other areas where similar studies have taken place.

Area	TGR (expressed as the number of males between 10-44 years it takes to form a football team)
Thurrock	141
Daventry Town	150
Cambridge area	158
Stevenage	169
King's Lynn and West Norfolk	180
Ellesmere Port	182
Kennet	183
Crawley, Horsham, Hastings, Bexhill, Maidstone	183
Great Yarmouth	192
Carlisle City and District	201
Easington	208
Wansbeck	210
Peterborough	231
<i>Southend</i>	239
Portsmouth	236
Castle Morpeth	260
Tyne and Wear	290
Sheffield	296
Redcar and Cleveland	434
Stockton-on-Tees	471
Average	1:231

The estimated TGR for the Borough is therefore slightly higher (i.e. worse) than what is known about levels of formal participation elsewhere in many other parts of the country.

The difference between the individual TGRs will be as a result of several factors that might include:-

- contrasting demographic characteristics, (populations dominated by those at the extremities of the team sport playing age groups may not generate as many teams as those dominated by older children and young adults);
- varied sports development campaigns, (local authorities and others running active sports development initiatives will probably encourage increased levels of participation); and,
- the existence of an adequate supply of playing pitches.

Previous pitch studies using Sport England's methodology have concentrated on the male 10-44 years age group, but the development of mini-soccer, with

its requirement for small pitches and goals, necessitates a more detailed analysis of TGRs. To plan effectively for future demand it is therefore appropriate to consider three separate TGRs:

- 6 - 9s, to cater for mini-soccer
- 10 -15s to cater for junior football on less than full-size pitches
- 16 – 45 to cater for youth and senior football

These age groups are defined by the governing bodies and Sport England in the main. Unfortunately, available population information does not tend to group the population into cohorts identical to the above. For example, the age range for junior football covers 6 years, whilst the nearest comparable population information is for the 5 year age range between 10 and 14 years. In an attempt to achieve some sort of comparison where age ranges differ, the average 'year' count for a 5 year population cohort has been calculated and used as a basis for estimating the numbers of people within the governing body age groups. For example, the 10-14 year male cohort was divided by 5, and then multiplied by 6 to give an estimated population for the number of males in the junior age range for football.

	6-9s	10-15s	16-45s
Population (males)	4,320	6,480	35,200
Teams	79	51	119
TGR	1:55	1:127	1:296

Several interesting points emerge from studying the above tables. The most obvious point are the contrasts that exist between the TGRs for the different age groups. Another interesting feature is the comparative popularity of football within the study area amongst younger people compared to adults. For the very young players the apparently high level of participation may partly be explained by the fact that only 4-7 players are required to form a mini soccer team. However, it may also be influenced by strong national and local mini soccer development programmes. It is of course the case that many in the under 10s age group would have been playing football in a format other than mini-soccer had the discipline not been introduced.

The participation levels in junior/youth football are good in comparison with adult participation. The latter is not as high as in the younger age groups, which is generally consistent with what is known of the national picture: this can be partly explained by the tendency for adults to give up playing with the advent of other commitments, (families, careers etc.); declining interest in sport once compulsory education is left; or, because older age and physical decline means that playing is no longer enjoyable. In practice, the large majority of players in adults teams will be less than 30 years of age.

Ideally, similar TGRs should be calculated for the three sub areas used in this study (i.e East Central and West) However, the population information is not available in sufficient detail from either the 2001 Census or other sources to allow this at the present time.

It is understood that one club within the Borough has recently established a 'junior wing' for girls, although this is at a very early stage. Beyond mini soccer, (where there is also likely to be some female representation in mixed teams) no female teams have been identified as playing within the Borough. (Southend United Ladies FC play just outside the Borough at Cupid's Country Club in Rochford District).

Supply of Pitches The following pitches have been identified in the Borough, as well as just outside in neighbouring local authority areas.

Ref	Name	Sub area	Sector	Availability	Sen football	Jun football	Mini soccer	ATP	Changing
13	Garons Park Eastern Ave	central	LA	A	5	0	0	0	1
19	Jones Memorial Youth Ground	central	LA	A	5	0	0	0	
14	New Youth Ground, Royal Artillery Way	central	LA	A	5	0	0	0	
18	Priory Park Victoria Ave	central	LA	A	3	0	0	0	2
15	Victory Sports Ground Eastern Ave	central	LA	A	3	0	0	0	1
29	Southend HS for Boys	central	Educ	B	1	0	0	0	1
31	St Mary's C of E PS	central	Educ	B	0	0	1	0	
35	Alexandra BC Alexandra Rd	central	Club	C	0	0	0	0	1
36	Bournemouth Park BC Larman Grn Wimborne Road	central	Club	C	0	0	0	0	1
16	Ekco Sports Ground Priory Cresc	central	Private	C	2	0	4	0	3
57	Old Southendians Warners Bridge	central	Club	C	2	0	0	0	
17	Warners Bridge Sumpters Way	central	Club	C	0	0	4	1	2
55	Roots Hall, Victoria Ave	central	Club	D	1	0	0	0	1
56	Southend Utd Training Ground	central	Club	D	3	0	0	0	
12	Bournes Green Park	east	LA/Private	A	3	0	0	0	1
9	Shoebury Garrison	east	LA	A	0	0	0	0	1
7	Shoebury Park	east	LA	A	2	0	2	0	1
11	Southchurch Park East	east	LA	A	0	2	0	0	0
10	Southchurch Park, Lifstan Way	east	LA	A	1	0	0	0	3
26	Friars PS	east	Educ	B	0	2	0	0	
28	Shoebury HS	east	Educ	B	4	0	5	0	1
33	Thorpe Bay HS	east	Educ	B	4	0	0	0	1
8	Elm Road P F	east	Club	C	0	3	1	0	1
60	John Burrows, Hadleigh	outside	LA	A	1	0	0	0	
59	Wakering Rec Ground	outside	LA	A	4	0	0	0	
61	Westbarrow Hall, Aviation Way	outside	Private	B	1	5	0	0	2
58	Cupids Country Club, Wakering	outside	Private	C	5	0	0	0	
5	Belfairs North, Eastwood Road	west	LA	A	2	0	0	0	2
4	Belfairs Park (Central) Eastwood Road	west	LA	A	3	0	0	0	1
6	Blenheim Park	west	LA	A	3	0	0	0	1
3	Eastwood Park	west	LA	A	3	0	0	0	1
2	Oakwood Park	west	LA	A	3	0	0	0	1

Ref	Name	Sub area	Sector	Availability	Sen football	Jun football	Mini soccer	ATP	Changing
22	Belfairs HS	west	Educ	B	0	3	0	0	1
23	Blenheim PS	west	Educ	B	0	0	2	0	
24	Edwards Hall JS	west	Educ	B	0	0	2	0	
25	Fairways PS	west	Educ	B	0	1	2	0	
27	Prince Ave PS	west	Educ	B	0	1	0	0	
30	St Helen's Cath PS	west	Educ	B	0	0	1	0	
32	St Thomas More HS	west	Educ	B	1	0	0	0	1
34	Westcliff HS for Boys	west	Educ	B	4	0	0	0	1
20	Heathfield Sports Club, Wellstead Gdns	west	Private/College	B	1	1	0	0	1
38	Chalkwell Esplanade	west	Club	C	0	0	0	0	2
45	Conifer LTC The Ridgeway	west	Club	C	0	0	0	0	1
46	Crowstone & St Saviours LTC Victory Path	west	Club	C	0	0	0	0	1
1	Eastwoodbury Lane	west	League	C	5	0	0	0	2
					80	18	24	1	9

The provision of football pitches within the three sub areas can therefore be summarised as follows.

Sub area	Availability	Sen football	Jun football	Mini soccer	ATP
Central	A	21	0	0	0
Central	B	1	0	1	0
Central	C	4	0	8	1
Central	D	4	0	0	0
East	A	5	1	0	0
East	B	8	2	5	0
East	C	0	3	1	0
West	A	13	0	0	0
West	B	5	5	7	0
West	C	6	1	0	0
		67			

The following table identifies the current situation in respect of shortfall and surplus of football pitches relative to demand. It also summarises the seven stages of the assessment.

The calculations only take into account pitches that are considered to be in Community Use (A, B and C).

Stages 1 to 7 of the playing pitch methodology applied to football

		East	Central	West
STAGE ONE Identifying teams	Senior	32	29	58
	Junior	8	38	5
	Mini	23	32	22
STAGE TWO	Senior	0.5	0.5	0.5

			East	Central	West
Calculate home games per week		Junior	0.5	0.5	0.5
		Mini	0.5	0.5	0.5
STAGE THREE (S1 x S2)		Senior	16	14.5	29
Assessing total home games per week		Junior	4	19	2.5
		Mini	13	16	11
STAGE FOUR		Senior			
Establish temporal demand for Pitches		Saturday a.m.		3%	
		Junior			
		Mini			
		Saturday p.m.	47%	72%	50%
		Junior			
		Mini			
		Sunday a.m.	53%	28%	50%
		Junior			
		Mini	100%	100%	100%
		Sunday p.m.	100%	97%	100%
		Junior			
		Mini			
Midweek					
Junior					
Mini					
STAGE FIVE (S3 x S4)		Senior			
Defining pitches used each day		Saturday a.m.		0.5	
		Junior			
		Mini			
		Saturday p.m.	7.5	10.5	14.5
		Junior			
		Mini			
		Sunday a.m.	8.5	4	14.5
		Junior			
		Mini	11.5	16	11
		Sunday p.m.	4	18.5	2.5
		Junior			
		Mini			
Midweek					
Junior					
Mini					
STAGE SIX		Senior	13	26	24
Establishing pitches currently available		Junior	6	0	6
		Mini	6	9	7
STAGE SEVEN (S6 - S5)		Senior			
Identifying shortfall (-) and surplus		Saturday a.m.		-0.5	
		Junior			
		Mini			
		Saturday p.m.	5.5	15.5	9.5
		Junior			

			East	Central	West
	Sunday a.m.	Mini	4.5	22	9.5
		Senior			
		Junior			
	Sunday p.m.	Mini	-5.5	-7	-4
		Senior	2	-18.5	3.5
		Junior			
	Mini				
	Midweek	Senior	2	-18.5	3.5
		Junior			
		Mini			

The most striking observations from the above table are the apparent under-provision during times of peak demand of junior football pitches in particular, but also apparently of minisoccer pitches. The latter can be explained in part by the tendency for some minisoccer to be played on surfaces shared with larger pitches. The fact that mini soccer pitches markings and goals are portable allows this to happen.

The shortage of junior pitches (especially in the Central sub area) can be explained by the fact that many junior teams will in fact be playing on adult size pitches, which is not ideal. As mentioned in the previous section, the Borough Council mark out pitches in accordance with the requirements of local leagues. It is important to bear in mind that when youngsters become too old to play minisoccer (on small-sided pitches), it can become daunting and (for some) off-putting to start having to run around on a pitch that may be four times bigger than the ones they used to play on. For lads (or lassies) playing in goal, it may be equally daunting to try and defend something that is 24 feet wide and 8 feet tall! The ideal would be to provide a much more gentle introduction to the 'big game' through marking out and equipping pitches to a specification more appropriate to junior play.

Given that junior teams will therefore largely play on adult sized pitches. The apparent surplus of adult pitches will be cancelled out largely through their use for junior games. For example, within the central sub area there is a surplus of adult pitches on Sunday mornings of 22. However, this does not mean that this pitch space is not required. Many of these pitches will of course be on school sites, and they exist primarily to meet school needs. Furthermore, much of this pitch space is also required to meet the needs of the junior/youth teams, many of which will use the adult pitches at peak demand time for this age group (Sun pm).

The supply of pitches relative to demand also needs to take into account their capacity to accommodate matches on a regular basis. Adverse weather conditions experienced (for example) in the Autumn of 2000 may increasingly become the norm, with obvious repercussions for pitch conditions, wear and tear and fulfillment of fixtures.

The club questionnaire has indicated that most users feel adult pitches are sufficiently robust to absorb the equivalent of at least 2 adult matches a week without undue wear and tear. The following serves as a guideline for the notional capacity of pitches in different sectors.

- Local Authority (including Borough and Town Councils): *2 community game/week.*
- Education Authority/Sector: *1 community game/week* (This is to reflect the fact that such pitches will be used first and foremost to meet curriculum needs.)
- Private/Voluntary Club: *2 community games a week.*

Mini-soccer pitches can accommodate more usage, as little players, smaller sides and shorter games produce appreciably less wear. This enables clubs operating multiple mini-teams to play consecutive games in the same time slot (usually Saturday or Sunday morning) on the same surface or pitch.

On this basis football pitches in Secured Community Use within the Borough can absorb the following total number of games per week without undue wear and tear. This table compares this weekly capacity with the number of games required to be accommodated each week. Obviously, the figures in these tables have no bearing on peak time demand. However, the regular capacity of a pitch is an important factor over the course of a season when high numbers of regular games will bring about considerable wear and tear on a pitch, and only those that are well drained will cope.

East

Sector	Total number of pitches in secured community use		Average game capacity per week per pitch		Total number of games per week	
	Adult	Junior	Adult	Junior	Adult	Junior
Local Authority	5	1	2	2	10	2
Education	8	2	1	1	8	2
Private/Vol	0	3	2	2	0	6
					18	10
				Total number of games required per week (i.e. teams x 0.5)	16	4
				Surplus/Shortfall of pitches	2	6

Central

Sector	Total number of pitches in secured community use		Average game capacity per week per pitch		Total number of games per week	
	Adult	Junior	Adult	Junior	Adult	Junior
Local Authority	21	0	2	2	44	0
Education	1	0	1	1	1	0
Private/Vol	2	0	2	2	4	0
					49	0
				Total number of games required per week (i.e. teams x 0.5)	14.5	19
				Surplus/Shortfall of pitches	34.5	-19

West

Sector	Total number of pitches in secured community use		Average game capacity per week per pitch		Total number of games per week	
	Adult	Junior	Adult	Junior	Adult	Junior
Local Authority	13	0	2	2	26	0
Education	6	6	1	1	6	6
Private/Vol	5	0	2	2	10	0
					42	6
				Total number of games required per week (i.e. teams x 0.5)	29	2.5
				Surplus/Shortfall of pitches	13	3.5

What these figures tend to show is that the notional capacity of adult and junior pitches in the east and west sub areas is adequate (although in the east only just so), but that there is a clear deficit in terms of the capacity of junior pitches in central sub area. This obviously is as a result of the shortage of junior pitches in this part of the study area.

Future demand. An important potential influence on local demand is the success of sports development campaigns. At the local level the Borough Sports and Leisure Development Strategy does not contain any measurable targets for increasing participation in sport. However, the Strategy does make specific recommendations to promote general participation through initiatives such as Active Mark and Sports Mark (through schools), and taster sessions/coaching courses.

The Essex FA is working across the County with several partners to develop junior football, including Girls' football. However, here too there are no measurable targets set for increasing local participation. The club questionnaire survey provides some evidence of latent demand, given that several clubs identified earlier would like to increase both membership and activity.

There is already one FA Community Charter Club existing in Southend. To obtain this standard a club has to have at least one team for each age group (including one adult and one girls' team). A number of other clubs are currently working towards obtaining this Charter status, which may lead to more teams.

Minisoccer, through both clubs and schools, seems to be faring well within the Borough according to Essex FA development staff, and a number of demonstration games have been played locally for under 6 players. The FA minisoccer regulations currently only recognise 6 and under 10 years age range. (See Section 3).

In the absence of specific local targets for raising participation it is important to include some assumptions about increased participation resulting from sports development campaigns. Sport England's have in the past suggested a figure of 15% increase in participation might be appropriate, and this will therefore be adopted for the purpose of helping to calculate future local demand.

If an existing TGR for a given area is 1:100, and is improved through sports development campaigns by 15%, this would lead to a new TGR of 1:85. The following tables applies local modified TGRs (i.e the existing local TGRs improved by 15%) in calculating the increase in numbers of teams that this would generate, as well as the increased demand in the number of pitches required.

An assumption has also been made that the pattern of demand over the week for pitches will remain much as it is as present. In reality this may not be case, as it is clear that peak time demand had shifted over the years.

Stages 1 to 7 of the playing pitch methodology applied to football employing modified TGRs

			East	Central	West
STAGE ONE Identifying teams	Senior		37	33	67
	Junior		9	44	6
	Mini		26	37	25
STAGE TWO Calculate home games per week	Senior		0.5	0.5	0.5
	Junior		0.5	0.5	0.5
	Mini		0.5	0.5	0.5
STAGE THREE (S1 x S2) Assessing total home games per week	Senior		18.5	16.5	33.5
	Junior		4.5	22	3
	Mini		13	18.5	12.5
STAGE FOUR Establish temporal demand for Pitches	Saturday a.m.	Senior			
		Junior		3%	
		Mini			
	Saturday p.m.	Senior	47%	72%	50%
		Junior			
		Mini			
	Sunday a.m.	Senior	53%	28%	50%
		Junior			
		Mini	100%	100%	100%
	Sunday p.m.	Senior			
		Junior	100%	97%	100%
		Mini			
STAGE FIVE (S3 x S4) Defining pitches used each day	Saturday a.m.	Senior			
		Junior		0.5	
		Mini			
	Saturday p.m.	Senior	8.5	12	17
		Junior			
		Mini			
	Sunday a.m.	Senior	10	4.5	17
		Junior			
		Mini	13	18.5	12.5
Sunday p.m.	Senior				
	Junior	4.5	21.5	3	
	Mini				
Midweek	Senior				
	Junior				
	Mini				
STAGE SIX Establishing pitches currently available	Senior		13	26	24
	Junior		6	0	6
	Mini		6	9	7

			East	Central	West			
STAGE SEVEN (S6 - S5) Identifying shortfall (-) and surplus	Saturday a.m.	Senior	4.5	14	7			
		Junior				-0.5		
		Mini						
	Saturday p.m.	Senior						
		Junior						
		Mini						
	Sunday a.m.	Senior				4.5	21.5	7
		Junior						
		Mini				-7	-9.5	-5.5
	Sunday p.m.	Senior	1.5	-21.5	3			
		Junior						
		Mini						
	Midweek	Senior						
		Junior						
		Mini						

The improved TGRs will therefore result in an increased demand for pitches on a pro rata basis. Once again the main supply issues are with regard to mini soccer and (particularly) junior football. However, even though overall demand will increase, the pitch stock will probably be able to cope, given the way that mini soccer and junior teams also tend to make use of adult pitch space when they are not required by the latter age group.

The potential effect of successful sports development campaigns cannot be considered in isolation from other factors; most notably the influence of population change. In the absence of more recent guidance, population projections prepared for the Essex and Southend-on-Sea Replacement Structure Plan (2001), suggested:-

- A decline in the number of males in the 10-44 years age group from 40,600 to 38,800 between 2001 and 2011.
- A decline in the number of males between 5-9 years from 5400 to 4500 between 2001 and 2011.

Obviously, when taken in isolation the above changes would have the effect of suppressing demand for pitches.

These projections took into account assumptions about fertility and mortality rates within the existing population. They also assumed that the Borough would not be subjected to major residential development in the foreseeable future. However, the local development plan framework is currently being reviewed and it is now becoming clear that the Borough will be required to absorb substantial additional housing. It is understood that there will be a requirement to accommodate an additional 6000 dwellings within the Borough between 2001 and 2021, with 1650 allocated for the Town centre and 1400 for Shoeburyness. If it is assumed that the occupancy rate of these additional

houses is about 2.2 people/dwelling (similar to the Borough's existing occupancy rate) the new housing would accommodate $6,000 \times 2.20 = 13,200$ people. Some of these occupants will already be Borough residents, although in practice it is likely that they will mostly be part of an in migration of new residents. It is known from the 2001 Census that 22.5% of the existing population are males between the ages of 10-44 years. If these figures were applied to the population generated by projected new housing it would suggest 2,970 males between 10-44 years.

As mentioned earlier in the section, the Team Generation Rate (TGR) for male football teams in the 10-44 age group is 1:239; this means that the 1999 males within the age group living in the new dwellings can be estimated to generate $1999/239 = 12$ football teams. Assuming that it would take two teams to justify an additional pitch, new housing will generate demand for space for at least 6 football pitches that could be marked out to meet the needs of either junior or adult teams.⁵

Apart from the above there will be additional demand from those wanting to play mini soccer and female football. In terms of mini soccer, applying the local TGR for mini soccer (1:55) to the estimated percentage of the new housing's occupants between 6-9 years would produce around 8 teams. Given that a dedicated mini soccer grid can accommodate a comparably large number of games, with 'lightweight' teams playing in sequence, it is likely that this additional demand will result in the need to provide 2 additional mini soccer grids at most.

As already mentioned, the participation rate in female football is very small compared to male football, and it is likely that any additional demand generated by the new housing will be accommodated by the (above) additional pitches.

If participation levels were 15% higher (reflecting the influence of positive factors on latent demand) the new housing might generate 14 male teams between 10-44 years, and 9 male mini soccer teams. The corresponding demand for pitches would therefore increase to around 7 pitches for the former.

Expansion of the South East Essex College in the Borough is currently taking place, in conjunction with the University of Essex. Currently, there are an estimated 750 Higher Education students at the College, which is projected to rise to 3,000 by 2011. It is likely that much of this expansion will arise from increased intake from within the Borough itself, and will therefore already be

⁵ It would be difficult to justify the provision of an additional pitch for just one new team because it would only be used every fortnight. On the other hand, a higher threshold of (say) 3 or 4 teams is also considered inappropriate, as the pattern of demand for (adult) pitches is heavily skewed towards Sunday morning play, and adopting a threshold level of 3 or more teams would result in the probability of single new pitch being subjected to competing demands from new teams wishing to play at the same time of the week.

accounted for in the above calculations. However, this is by no means certain at this stage and it will be very important for the College to assume responsibility for any additional demand for playing pitches generated by its students during the week as part of curricular or extra-curricular activity.

4.6 WHAT THE LEAGUES SAY.

The Southend and District Junior Sunday League in a response to the questionnaire survey, and in other correspondence with the Borough Council have expressed concern over the quality of some of the local facilities, and these concerns are reflected in the views of local clubs raised through the questionnaire survey (see below).

4.7 OTHER ISSUES

At a strategic level the Essex Local Football Partnership (LFP) in association with the FA and the Football Foundation has produced a countywide facility development strategy. Some of the key issues raised by consultees on this Strategy, include the following (although it should be noted that some of these may be more relevant to the study area than others):

- Poor and inadequate facilities. The key issues and barriers to participation identified through the consultation exercise primarily related to poor quality of changing and ancillary accommodation, which was felt to discourage certain groups and individuals from taking part. This was a widespread concern amongst most consultees. It should be noted that whilst most facilities have changing provision of some sort, the real issue is the quality (or rather lack of it) of such facilities. 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. Because of this backlog, games are often played on pitches that are not well-prepared, to the detriment of both the quality of the surface itself and the football being played on it.
- Following on from the previous point, clearly the more artificial pitches available for training the less strain there will be on grass pitches. Similarly, much of the backlog of fixtures would be aided by the installation of more floodlights. This would enable teams/leagues to schedule matches on mid-week evenings when necessary.
- Local authorities raised concerns over long-term maintenance of their facilities. Given that leisure services are generally a discretionary council function, maintenance budgets for sports pitches tend to have been cut to the minimum necessary.

- Some established clubs seeking to further develop and expand are frustrated in their ambitions because of either the lack of suitable land at an affordable price, or else the inability to obtain security of tenure. This issue tends to arise frequently when established clubs play on council sites that are usually also Public Open Space.
- Community use of school pitches. Whilst it has been established that the use of school pitches by outside teams is widespread in Southend, there are still issues to be addressed in terms of promoting better levels of 'community use'. Some schools may not wish to allow public use of their pitches simply because they feel that they are already overused in school hours via curriculum activity. Moreover, for many schools it is not worth paying a caretaker/groundsman to open up the facilities for one game per weekend. In the larger schools where there are more pitches this is less of an issue, and many such schools regularly host matches on Sunday mornings. There needs to be more of an incentive for the smaller schools to open up their facilities.

Given that most clubs/teams prefer to have changing accommodation, and most adult leagues expect such provision the lack of basic, good standard, changing accommodation to service pitches is very worrying.

Equally worrying is the lack of dedicated female changing accommodation across the County. This is an issue that needs to be addressed if the priorities of the FA Development Strategy, encouraging the growth of girls/women's football are to be implemented.

In addition to the above, the Club questionnaire survey conducted as part of this study attracted some response in respect of particular issues requiring the attention of this study:-

Club Name	Address/Location Of Clubs Sports Facilitys	Problems with home facilitys	Anything else?
Belleville Wanderers FC		Goal nets	It would be nice if the council would help the teams already in the leagues and stop them folding and not hand out grants or payments to teams that are good publicity.
Westcliff Amateur FC	Victory Sports Ground	The pitches can be used by children/youths at any time free of charge since it is a public park	Victory Sportsground was once regarded as the best playing surface in the area but there appears to be a lack of quality now. The care and attention that used to be evident is no longer there, in my opinion. As a match referee myself, I feel there should be separate changing facilities for match officials.
Southend Rangers FC	Oakwood Park	The pitch is never in a good state of repair. If I complain I am told by Southend Borough Council it is impossible to do anything as there is simply no money. Although we pay for the ground sometimes the dressing rooms are locked. Usually no shower is working	Everyone knows that councils need the money from hiring out sports facilities, but I think that the attitude of the council is often very poor. I have run this club for 21 years and sadly I have seen the standards fall and hire charges rise, all leagues around the country are getting smaller, I never dreamed I'd see the day when so many football pitches around the Borough are vacant but clubs are being priced out of existence, being asked to pay ever higher fares for poorer facilities.
White Ensign/Ensign FC	Eastwoodbury Lane Centre	Pitch quality generally goo unless played to frequently	Our first and second play in grade five football or intermediate standard. Third and fourth teams play in the local Southend Borough League and the pitches played on are mostly provided by and maintained by Southend Council. The

Southend-on-Sea Playing Pitch Strategy

Club Name	Address/Location Of Clubs Sports Facilitys	Problems with home facilitys	Anything else?
			facilities are varied with some being reasonable eg Shoebury Park and some being awful e.g.Priory Park. However we have noticed a general decline in standards overall.
Carlyle Sports Club FC	Thorpe Bay High School	Although the school groundsman is first class I do not believe he has the budget to maintain pitches as should be the case. Some goal posts are rusty and really should be renewed and we buy and supply the goal nets each season	There are six clubs who share the pitches at the school - four pitches - plus 2/3 boys clubs. All play Sundays- there is little or no Saturday football. If there was Saturday football the pitches would not be able to stand the level of wear and tear for one season. The school can play they're part by using pitches alternatively for they're school games, but it seems little thought is given to that. Football becomes more and more expensive. Without sponsorship very few teams could exist.
Ambleside FC	Thorpe Bay High School	None	I am also the secretary of the Southend Borough Combination Vets League
Eltonians FC	Shoebury Park	Long grass, poor pitch markings, showers not working. Should be separate changing rooms for teams	To avoid long-term pitch damage and weeks of postponements, football season should begin earlier (mid August). There December/January postponements would not be troublesome if pitches not played on then.
Catholic United FC	Victory Sports Ground	1. Priory Park only one changing room for two teams 2. Blenheim Park's showers always cold	Groundsmen throughout the Borough don't care about preparing pitches. They are never spiked or rolled it is a disgrace.
Portdean Lion FC	Central Belfairs	Pitch is on a major slope, Porta-cabin changing rooms only big enough for 6-7 people at a time	I feel that more should be done to keep football pitches open. Aviation Way has got the best pitch with drainage but has had to close down this year because of lack of changing rooms. Westcliff RFC is there but won't let football teams use its changing rooms. I know of 2 pitches that have closed this year! As a chairman I don't find that pleasing or healthy for the game.
Callback FC	Central Belfairs	Changing rooms are poor no water facilities or toilets	
Hotspurs YFC	Southend Council Pitches, Jones Memorial, Youth Ground	No changing facilities. Poor communication system in adverse weather conditions (i.e. is game on or off ?)	
Hamlet Court FC	St Laurence Park	Line marking poor. Parking is poor	
Southend Manor FC	The Arena, Southchurch Park	Poor pitch quality, ancillary facilities are leased, no changing rooms	We are going to apply for a grant to improve our facilities and create a training area
Echo Whitecaps FC	Ecko Sports and Social Club	New showers/changing facilities requires. Training area is poor. Pitch requires maintainance.	We put a lot of effort into looking after and improving the ground
Leigh Town FC	Bleinheim Park and Victory Sports Ground	Ongoing problems at Blenheim Park	
Leigh Ramblers FC	Various school and council grounds		These studies never seem to help clubs. We rely on our own initiative as the council never want or never will help. The poor quality of pitches around the Town are a disgrace

Within the questionnaire survey clubs were asked to identify the three WORST and three BEST pitches they had played on during the season, and those that responded to this question indicated as follows.

Club Name	Which are the worst pitches you have played on this season	Best pitches played on this season
Belleville wanderers FC	1. Elm Road (Shoebury Boys) 2. John Burrows (Hadleigh) 3. Blenheim Park	
Westcliff Amateur FC	1. Oakwood Park 2. Bournes Green Park 3. Eastwood Park	1. Shoebury Park 2. Victory Sports Ground 3. Garon Park
Southend Rangers FC	1. Oakwood Park Pitch 18 2. Central Belfairs Pitch 7 3. Oakwood Park Pitch 17	1. Eastwood Park Pitch 14 2. Victory Sportsground Pitch 24 3. Eastwoodbury Lane (all pitches)
White Ensign/Ensign FC	1. Ecko Ground 2. Bournes Green 3. Priory park	1. Eastwoodbury Lane 2. Southend United 3. Old Chelmsfordians
Carlyle Sports Club FC	1. Fairview, Ashington 2. John Burrows	1. Victory Sportsground 2. Belfairs north 3. Our own at Thorpe bay
Ambleside FC	1. Clements Hall, Hockley 2. Eastwood Park 3. Oakwood Park	1. Eastwoodbury Lane 2. Cupids Country Club 3. Ford Sports, Basildon
INTL PMS FC	1. Oakwood Park 2. Bournes Green Park	1. Eastwoodbury Lane
Eltonians	1. King Georges, Canvey Island 2. John Burrows 3. London Road, Rayleigh	1. Our Pitch at Shoebury Park 2. Victory Sportsground 3. Ecko Sportsground
Catholic United Football Club	1. Blenheim Park 2. Belfairs 3. Bournes Green	1. Victory Sportsground 2. Shoebury Park 3. Eastwoodbury Lane
Portdean Lion FC	1. Chalkwall Park 2. Priory Park 3. Blenheim Park	1. Westborough Hall (Aviation Way)
Callback FC	1. Basildon 2. Southend 3. Wickford	Most Pitches when the weather is good
Hotspurs YFC	1. Waterside, Canvey 2. Youth Ground	1. Benfleet Youth Ground, 2. Gloucester Park 3. Jones Memorial
hamlet court FC	1. Grove Road Radleigh 2. Jones Southend 3. Waterside, Canvey	1. Jones Memorial Pitch One 2. King George, Scrubs Lane, Hadleigh 3. Warner's Bridge, Hadleigh
Southend Manor Football Club	1. Our Own 2. Canvey Island	1. Burnham Ramblers 2. Shoebury School
Echo Whitecaps FC	1. Benfleet Recreation Ground, 2. School on Canvey Island, 3. Waterside Sports Centres	1. Ecko Sports Club 2. Priory Park 3. Pitch two at Jones Memorial
Leigh Rockets FC	1. Bowers Gifford 2. Raleigh	School Pitches
Leigh Ramblers FC	1. Bournes Green 2. Belfairs 3. Blenheim Park	1. Eastwoodbury 2. Victory 3. Warners Bridge

The following observations can be made about these comments:

- Many of the WORST pitches identified are outside the Borough (thus confirming that 'quality' is a problem experienced elsewhere).
- Interestingly, one or two of the WORST pitches identified also appear in the BEST column. This suggests that views are tainted very much by experience on the day, which may well in turn be influenced by the weather (as is inferred by one of the respondents).

However, the above said, it is clear that certain sites figure more than most in the WORST column.

Thus there is a concern shared between clubs, local leagues and the governing body about the general state of repair and maintenance of community playing pitches. These concerns are experienced across the UK and not unique to Southend. They are also recognized by the Borough Council, and the Final Draft Parks Strategy contains (as an appendix) a comprehensive 'quality inventory' of its sports pitches within the Borough together with desired improvements to be made to both pitches/drainage, as well as changing accommodation.

There is clearly a dilemma insofar as:

- Local authorities increasingly no longer have sufficient resources to maintain facilities to a standard sufficient to meet club/league/governing body expectations.
- Clubs already feel the cost of using facilities (when combined with other costs related to running a football team) is already expensive in many cases.

Before summarizing the local situation for football one other matter needs to be addressed; namely the incidence of clubs/teams traveling out of the Borough to use pitches. Several teams with an affinity at least in name with Southend are based at venues outside the Borough. It is important to recognize that this is not in itself a reflection of a general shortage of pitches within the Borough. It must also be recognized that a club/team's membership catchment will not be confined to within a given local authority area, and in practice many players in 'Southend teams' will live in neighbouring areas. However, other factors may indeed influence a team's decision to play outside the Borough. For example, shortage of good standard changing accommodation may be one reason. This may in part explain why Southend United Ladies FC actually play just outside the Borough (at the Cupid's Country Club in Rochford District). Another factor may be cost of hiring pitches. Although the Borough Council's hire charges for its pitches do not compare unfavourably with other local authorities, they are likely to be higher than those for most parish councils in adjacent areas and this may be sufficient inducement for some clubs to travel outside the Borough.

4.8 SUMMARY FOR FOOTBALL

- In general terms there are currently enough pitches to meet demand, although there is an imbalance in provision between adult and junior/youth size pitches (in particular).
- However, major new residential development will undoubtedly lead to a requirement for additional pitches and supporting accommodation, there may be a requirement to accommodate up to 14 additional male teams between the ages of 10-44, and 9 male mini soccer teams. Providing sufficient to accommodate the older age groups may lead to a requirement for space to accommodate 7 adult football pitches (or 6.3 hectares).
- There are issues with the quality of many local pitches (especially drainage), as well as the existence/quality of ancillary facilities and equipment.

4.9 CRICKET

Teams and Players The clubs and adult teams known to be based in the Borough are summarised below:

Clubs	Venue	Teams	League
Leigh on Sea	Chalkwell Park	1st	Shepherd Neame Essex League (Sat)
		2nd	Shepherd Neame Essex League (Sat)
		3rd	Shepherd Neame Essex League (Sat)
		4th	Shepherd Neame Essex League (Sat)
		U11, U13, U15	South Essex District Cricket Board Colts (Midweek)
		Sun 1st, A	Essex Sunday League (Sun)
Old Southendians & Southchurch	Southchurch Park	1st	Shepherd Neame Essex League (Sat)
		2nd	Shepherd Neame Essex League (Sat)
		3rd	Shepherd Neame Essex League (Sat)
		4th	Shepherd Neame Essex League (Sat)
		U13,U15	South Essex District Cricket Board Colts (Midweek)
Southend on Sea	Southchurch Park/Wellstead Gardens	1st	Shepherd Neame Essex League (Sat)
		2nd	Shepherd Neame Essex League (Sat)
		3rd	Shepherd Neame Essex League (Sat)
		4th	Shepherd Neame Essex League (Sat)
		U11, U13, U15	South Essex District Cricket Board Colts (Midweek)
		Sunday A, B	Essex Sunday League (Sun)
Westcliff on Sea	Chalkwell Park	1st	Shepherd Neame Essex League (Sat)
		2nd	Shepherd Neame Essex League (Sat)
		3rd	Shepherd Neame Essex League (Sat)
		Women	
		U11, U13, U15	South Essex District Cricket Board Colts (Midweek)
Ekco Monarchs & Trojans	Exco Sports Ground	1 st	Mid Essex (Sat)
		2 nd	Mid Essex (Sat)
		3 rd	Mid Essex (Sat)
		4th	Mid Essex (Sat)
		U11, U13	South Essex District Cricket Board Colts (Midweek)
Old Westcliffians	Chalkwell Park	Sunday	Essex Sunday League (Sun)?
Southend Trinity	Garon Park	Sunday	Essex Sunday League (Sun)
Eastwood	Belfairs	1st	Mid Essex (Sat)
		2nd	Mid Essex (Sat)
		3rd	Mid Essex (Sat)
		4th	Mid Essex (Sat)
		U15	South Essex District Cricket Board Colts (Midweek)

The main leagues operating in the area are therefore:

- The Essex League
- The Mid Essex League
- The Essex Sunday League
- The South Essex District Cricket Board Colts League

There are known to be 28 adult (male) and 15 colt (male) teams playing on a regular (league) basis within the Borough; there is also 1 women's teams. In addition to the above, it is likely that there will be a few casual 'works' teams playing irregular fixtures during the summer evenings, although these are difficult to quantify.

Making an allowance for team squads, there are therefore estimated to be around 645 regular male players in the study areas, and between 15 and 20 adult female players

The temporal demand for pitches throughout the week depends on the league and competition structure, and the demand from junior teams. Adult cricket mainly takes place at weekends. In the case of the study area, most league cricket takes place on a Saturday, with mid-week cup competitions, whilst colts cricket (where it exists) is played on midweek evenings. There is also a strong Essex Sunday League in which there is some local representation.

The role of TGRs in assessing future demand is explained elsewhere in the report. Cricket teams of different age groups tend to use the same pitch, albeit often with varying boundary lengths. An overall TGR for cricket is calculated by dividing the number of teams into the estimated male population between the ages of 10 and 44. In the Borough this is estimated as follows:

Male population between 10-44 years	40,600
Teams	43 (between 10 – 44 years)
TGR	1: 944

This can be compared with TGRs generated through similar studies elsewhere:

Area	TGR
Mid Devon	271
Castle Morpeth	295
North Devon	298
Kennet	407
King's Lynn and West Norfolk	451
Torbay	463

Area	TGR
Easington	481
Redcar and Cleveland	629
Thurrock	760
Wansbeck	805
Daventry Town	875
Cambridge area	908
Southend	944
Peterborough	1095
Stevenage	1158
Great Yarmouth	1606
Portsmouth	2808
Average	1:838

The factors influencing such a wide variation in the TGRs between the different areas is explained earlier in this section when discussing the TGRs for football.

It will be seen that the participation rate does not compare favourably with what is known about the situation in many other parts of the country.

It is difficult to break down this overall TGR further to accurately reflect the governing body age groups for Junior Cricket (11-17 years), and Adult cricket (18 – 55 years) because of the inconsistencies between these age groups and the cohorts used for population estimates. However, to achieve at least an approximate idea existing population estimates (2001) for males between 10 and 19 years (9,500) have been divided by 10 and then multiplied by 7 to give an estimate of 6,650 males within the governing body age group for junior cricket. The same calculation has been made for the adult age group providing an estimate of 47,600

Based on these estimates the TGRs for junior and adult cricket are 1:633, and 1:1,700 respectively. The level of junior participation is therefore better than that for adults. This may be an encouraging sign in terms of the future of the sport locally. However, there will be some falling off in participation as young players mature into adulthood for reasons explained in Section 3.

Supply of Pitches The following cricket pitches have been identified as accommodating community use in the Borough:

Ref	Name	Sub area	Sector	Availability	Cricket	Changing
13	Garons Park Eastern Ave	central	LA	A	1	1
15	Victory Sports Ground Eastern Ave	central	LA	A	2	1
					3	
16	Ekco Sports Ground Priory Cresc	central	Private	C	1	3
					1	

Ref	Name	Sub area	Sector	Availability	Cricket	Changing
7	Shoebury Park	east	LA	A	1	1
9	Shoebury Garrison	east	LA	A	1	1
10	Southchurch Park, Lifstan Way	east	LA	A	3	3
					5	
3	Eastwood Park	west	LA	A	1	1
5	Belfairs North, Eastwood Road	west	LA	A	4	2
21	Chalkwell Park	west	LA	A	2	3
					7	
20	Heathfield Sports Club, Wellstead Gdns	west	Private/College	C	1	1
					1	

There are therefore known to be 17 cricket fields/ tables within the study area. However, not all these may be available at any given time. For example, those at Belfairs are rotated, and only three out of the four will be available at any one time.

Cricket can accommodate more 'game days' per season than winter pitch sports for a variety of reasons:

- Individual wickets can be rotated – some cricket squares in the Borough contain more than one separate strip.
- Pitches are less susceptible to wear and tear as ground conditions in summer are better.
- Artificial wickets where they exist can sustain more usage.
- Most local matches are played on a limited over basis and pitches can often absorb more than one match per day, especially if one of these is a junior match.
- Some informal junior games will not be played on full fields, which can therefore be shared.

Because of the above factors, and the comparatively small number of teams and pitches it is probably not appropriate to use the Sport England methodology to establish the adequacy of supply of pitches relative to demand. It is easier to assess future problems and prospects primarily on a club-by-club basis, as well as through talking to the representatives of the relevant leagues.

The club survey had a good response from local cricket teams, none of which identified a problem in respect of shortage of cricket facilities. However, the following comments were made from some clubs in respect of facilities.

Club Name	Address/Location Facility	Problems with home facilities	Anything else?
Aviation Cricket Club	Victory Sportsground	Dangerous Pitch. Changing rooms sometimes locked. Showers don't work	Council don't help. Pitch is dangerous!
Ekco Monarchs & Trojans Cricket Club	Ekco Sports and Social Club	Need proper groundsmen, changing rooms need renovation	The ability to submit this type of data electronically.
Leigh-on-Sea Cricket Club	Chalkwell Park	Problems with outfield, weeds growing, Health and safety issues.	
Southchurch Cricket Club	Southchurch Park		Council are slow to help if at all
Eastwood Cricket Club	Belfairs Sportsground	Overuse of outfield by football training, quality of wickets	

4.10 WHAT THE LEAGUES SAY.

The concerns expressed by clubs are to a large extent reflected in on-going dialogue between local league/club representatives and the Borough Council with regards to cricket played on local authority sites.

Southend does not tend to follow the national pattern in the sense that much of the 'serious' cricket is played in public parks that are also used for other sports (notably football), as well as casual recreation activity. The most notable local example of this is at Southchurch Park, where there are two senior cricket clubs located within a popular public park that has recently been awarded Green Flag status.

A survey of the quality of pitches and outfields has recently been undertaken by local clubs within the Shepherd Neame Essex League, and the findings of this exercise generally mirrored the views expressed through the club questionnaire survey. It should be made clear that these problems are not unique to Southend, but are commonly shared by local clubs elsewhere, where there is use of public space for organized cricket. The general sentiment expressed is that with the various financial cutbacks facing council leisure services, local authorities (and their contractors) have lost the skills and resources necessary to maintain cricket pitches.

Many of these problems appear intractable. Council's in general increasingly have to focus on providing rump services, which may not include supporting in financial terms the provision and maintenance of what might be seen as 'specialist' facilities. (Although, having said this the Borough Council has recently invested significant amounts of money into improving the outfields at Southchurch Park.)

However, in other respects the Council may be able to address some of the problems faced by local cricket clubs, especially in terms of the 'conflicts' arising from cricket sharing space with other organized sport. The most obvious case in point is Southchurch Park where the cricket outfield is also used for adult football training as well as minisoccer activity during the cricket season.

One option would be to relocate the football activity, and opportunities present themselves to do just this 'over the road' at Southchurch Park (East). It is understood that Southend Manor FC (who play at the football stadium next to Southchurch Park) are planning to relocate their junior and youth teams to this venue next year and, subject to agreement between all relevant stakeholders, there is an opportunity to develop this site further as a football venue, whilst not compromising the site's other role as an occasional events venues (for dog shows etc).

Such an initiative would be of direct benefit to local cricket through removing football from Southchurch Park.

An alternative option would be to remove the cricket activity from Southchurch Park. The opportunity may present itself to do this with the ongoing renovation of facilities through developer contributions at Shoebury Garrison. However, clearly other local clubs may also wish to stake a claim to use these additional facilities when they are made available. Although there are problems with the shared use of Southchurch Park between cricket and other recreation activity the former is clearly integral to the overall character of the Park, and its relocation from this venue would be unfortunate from this standpoint.

Future demand. As with football, this is composed of a number of factors.

The reduction in the number of current Borough residents in the 'pitch sport playing' age group could, acting in isolation, result in a slightly reduced demand for teams and pitches (although it is recognised that cricketers often play on until well into their middle years).

Set against this will be the impact of new housing development (as discussed under football). Making the same assumptions about the occupancy of new dwellings as rehearsed for football, there would be an additional 3 teams generated by new housing, when the current overall TGR for cricket (1:944) is applied. Even when the TGR is improved by 15% (to take account of possible sports development), this number would only rise to around 3.5 additional teams. Participation development programmes for local cricket appear less well evolved than those for football; although three clubs responding to the questionnaire survey expressed a general desire to encourage a growth in junior membership and play, including working with local schools. Although the County Cricket Development Officer (employed by the Essex County Cricket Board) does work with local schools in promoting curricular cricket as well as links between schools and clubs, the general decline in cricket within

the PE curriculum means that relatively few young players are developing an interest in playing as a result of school activity.

Given that (for the reasons described earlier in this section) cricket fields/wickets tend to be a far more flexible resource than (say) football pitches in absorbing demand, it may be difficult to justify an additional dedicated cricket field for just 3 additional teams. However, with a little judicious planning and design new provision could be on a shared use basis with new football pitches provided in these areas.

4.11 SUMMARY FOR CRICKET

- Generally, participation in cricket is low compared with many other parts of the country.
- There is little prospect for substantial growth at the current time arising from sports development and the promotion of participation amongst young players.
- Supply of cricket pitches meets need and no clubs have identified a requirement for additional pitches.
- Clubs have expressed concern over the quality of facilities located on public venues.
- At certain venues there is conflict arising from the shared use of public space between cricket and other activities.
- Additional demand for cricket facilities from new housing is likely to be limited (around 3 additional teams), and probably will not justify new dedicated pitch space. However, there should be scope for some new football pitch sites to be designed with shared use with cricket in mind, accommodated on an appropriately sized site.

4.12 RUGBY

The following two clubs are based either in or on the periphery of Southend.

Southend RUFC: This club plays at Warner's Bridge Park, Sumpters Way. It currently runs 5 senior teams (the 1st team currently playing in National League Division 3 (south)) and several Junior (mini) teams from under 7 –to under 13 years.)

The club has 3 full size pitches. The male adults play on Saturdays and the juniors on Sunday. There are also 5 mini rugby pitches marked out.

Westcliff RUFC: This club plays at The Gables, Aviation Way (outside the Borough). It currently runs 4 senior teams (including 1 veterans).

There are also youth teams from 13 – under 17 years (7 teams), and 9 junior (mini) teams from 7 to under 13 years. The male adults play on Saturdays and the juniors on Sunday

Membership has increased from around 200 in 1996 to 300 plus last year. The club suggest that membership continues to increase.

The club has 3 full size and 4 junior (mini) pitches. The facilities at the site are local authority owned. Rugby clubs generally are well-organised and tend to develop and manage their facilities either on land they owns, or through leasing on a secure basis.

There is currently no evidence of a shortage of pitches, based on the response of clubs to the survey.

The precise TGRs for youth and adult rugby cannot be determined due to insufficiently detailed population data at the time of preparing this report. However, dividing the existing number of adult and youth teams (16) into the male population between 15-44 years (30,864) provides a rough TGR of 1:1929.

Future demand. The reduction in the number of current Borough residents in the 'pitch sport playing' age group could, acting in isolation, result in a slightly reduced demand for teams and pitches.

Set against this will be the impact of new housing development. Making the same assumptions about the occupancy of new houses as rehearsed for football and cricket, there would be between 1 and 2 additional youth/adult teams (about 1.5) generated by new housing, when the current overall TGR for cricket (1:1929) is applied. When the TGR is improved by 15% (to take account of possible sports development), the figure is still less than two teams. It may be difficult to justify a rugby pitch for this additional level of demand. However, it must nonetheless be recognised that new housing will generate some (albeit) limited demand to play the sport, and this must be reflected in the development and application of local standards; such as through improvements to existing rugby facilities.

4.13 SUMMARY FOR RUGBY

- Good sports development.
- Major new housing is likely to lead to some additional demand to play rugby, but it may be appropriate to focus on improving existing facilities rather than provide new pitches.

4.14 HOCKEY

The following clubs teams play in or on the periphery of the Borough.

Old Southendian Hockey Club: The Club's grounds are located at Warners Park, Sumpters Way, Southend-on-Sea, comprising a two-storey clubhouse with an artificial turf pitch adjacent. The Club shares its facilities with Southend Ladies HC and the Old Southendian FC.

The Club currently runs six men's teams on a Saturday, all of which compete in the East Hockey League. The league encompasses teams from Essex, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Suffolk, Norfolk and Lincolnshire. The 1st XI competes in Division 2 of the East League.

The Club has a youth policy with Saturday morning coaching sessions for children aged 6-13, and on Sundays there are teams taking part in regional U-14 and U-17 leagues.

There is also a veteran's side which plays various friendlies and tournaments throughout the season.

Southend Ladies Hockey Club: The Club (also based at Warner's Bridge) has three ladies teams playing in the Essex League, as well as one colts (under 19s) team.

The Club offers Sunday morning coaching, and there is some evidence that its youth development work is resulting in at least some young players progressing through the ranks to the adult teams. There are currently 50 plus young people taking part in the Club's coaching scheme.

A further Club (Southend Hockey Club) appears to play most of its games at Canvey Island, outside the Borough. There is insufficient information to confirm whether this is because of a lack of facilities in Southend forcing players/teams to travel to pitches outside the Borough, or rather because the player members mostly reside outside the Borough.

Approximate TGRs can be estimated for the 16-44 years age group for both male and female hockey, and these are:

- Males 1:4,409
- Females: 1:7,859

However, to aid the development of a local standard of provision for hockey pitched/ATPs it is probably better to instead estimate a TGR for the population as a whole (that is dividing the combined total numbers of adult male and female teams into the total population for the Borough). This provides an approximate TGR of 1:5,664.

Future demand. The reduction in the number of current Borough residents in the 'pitch sport playing' age group could, acting in isolation, result in a slightly reduced demand for teams and pitches.

Set against this will be the impact of new housing development. Making the same assumptions about the occupancy of new houses as rehearsed for football, cricket and rugby there would be less than one additional youth/adult

team (about 0.9) generated by new housing, when the current overall TGR for hockey (1:5,664) is applied. When the TGR is improved by 15% (to take account of possible sports development), this figure only rises to just over 1 team.

It would clearly be impossible to justify an ATP for this level of additional participation alone. However, it must be recognised that new housing will generate some (albeit) limited demand to play the sport. Ultimately the best way to achieve this will probably be through the improvement of existing hockey pitches/ATPs and associated facilities.

Only one floodlit full-size ATP (required for hockey) currently exists in the study area. A further full-size ATP is located at Thomas More High School in the West sub area, although this is not floodlit which hampers its use by the community and local clubs during evenings.

ATPs are essential for competitive league hockey. They also represent an important training resource for many sports (notably football) as they offer a robust and even surface, playable in all conditions, and which can theoretically be used 24 hours/day if floodlights are provided. Because ATPs can be used intensively for football and rugby training this can reduce wear and tear on grass pitches, which can therefore be maintained in a better state for formal matches. ATPs are also acceptable media for competitive mini-soccer.

A recent run of the Sport England Facilities Planning Model has not identified a strategic demand for additional ATPs in the Southend area either during the week (largely for football), or at the weekend (for hockey). However, Sport England has suggested that Sport England accepts that a 'local needs' case may be for additional facilities in some circumstances, especially where potential club users already exist.

Because ATPs are expensive to construct and have to be replaced roughly every ten years, it is important to locate them where they will be well used, both to help recoup initial capital outlay and to maximise contributions to the necessary 'sinking fund' to replace the worn out surface. The viability of ATPs is also underpinned by the existence of ready and willing users, such as large hockey and football clubs that could block-book sessions. It also helps if off-peak time can be utilised by schools. The optimal locations for such facilities will therefore frequently be school sites located within the larger population centres, and also where community use agreements exist.

The provision of an additional floodlit ATP would probably help the further development of local hockey. The key problems to resolve though would be:

- From where to obtain local funding? Given that Sport England have not identified a strategic deficiency in ATPs within easy reach of Southend, it is unlikely that substantial lottery funding would be forthcoming for such a project.

- What sort of surface should be laid? The ideal would be a surface that could be used not just by hockey, but also by football (for at least training and small-sided football), to help support the economic viability).

The best chance of receiving external grant aid for a new facility is likely to be from the Football Foundation. However, a likely prerequisite on their part would be that such a facility is used primarily for football and is designed with that in mind.

Perhaps the most realistic solution would be the development of a floodlit ATP for multi sports use funded through longer-term developer contributions. An alternative (and cheaper option) might be to secure funding for the upgrading of the facility at Thomas More High School, although it is accepted that this raises planning issues.

Location and design considerations with regard to ATPs are discussed further in Section 6.

4.14 SUMMARY FOR HOCKEY

- In the longer term an additional floodlit ATP may help promote participation amongst the established clubs and also encourage any players travelling to facilities outside the study area to play at local venues. However, if such a surface were to be provided it should be suitable for use by a variety of sports both for training and competition.
- Major new housing is likely to lead to some limited additional demand to play hockey, but it may be appropriate to focus on improving existing facilities rather than provide new pitches (ATPs).

5. YOUTH PROVISION

5.1 INTRODUCTION

It is important not to overlook provision for young people in relation to the need for and demand upon open space. It is considered in this report because there is a complementary relationship between informal outdoor facilities for youth and formal pitch sports. Whilst it is clear that many young people want to engage in healthy outdoor physical recreation, the majority will probably not wish to take part in formal sports. Informal facilities for youth can meet this niche need. Additionally, providing for these facilities may also help to reduce wear and tear on grass pitches caused by informal activity, such as kickarounds.

This section therefore aims to briefly outline the main issues that the Council may wish to consider in relation to planning for such open space use (both within the Local Development Framework and for potential new housing developments). The scope of the brief does not allow for a comprehensive evaluation of supply and demand for such facilities but rather aims to ensure all the key issues are identified for consideration at an appropriate later date.

5.2 WHAT ARE YOUTH FACILITIES?

When we refer to facilities for youth we are thinking of facilities primarily aimed at the 14+ age range, but which will in reality be likely to cater, in addition, for children and young people at either end of this target group. Such facilities include:

- BMX tracks.
- Skateboard ramps and pipes.
- Kickabout areas.
- Street basketball facilities.
- Floodlit multi-use games areas.
- Youth shelters.
- Purpose-built outdoor meeting areas for young people.
- Games walls
- Graffiti walls

5.3 THE PROBLEM

There are no national planning guidelines or standards to which local authorities can refer regarding provision for young people in the 14+ age range.

Facilities for younger children are often planned by reference to the NPFA "6 acre standard" adopted by many local authorities. They are frequently referred to in relation to the development of the local plan, and utilised to plan playground provision for new housing developments.

It is worth reflecting on these standards. In summary the NPFA suggest the following standards for provision:

5.4 LAP (Local Area for Play)

- Location – one minutes walking time from home.
- Target age group – four to six-year-olds.
- Purpose – low-key games, French cricket or play with small toys.
- Equipment – small scale, appropriate for younger children, seating and dog fencing.
- Area – activity zone (to avoid disturbance to neighbours) at least 50 metres from the nearest residential property.

5.5 LEAP (local equipped area for play)

- Location – five minutes walking time from home.
- Target age group – four to eight years. Consideration should also be given to very young children and unaccompanied eight to ten-year-olds.
- Purpose – LEAPS should cater for a large range of play activity, including informal ball games.
- Equipment – at least five types of play equipment. Should also have seating for accompanying adults and be fenced to exclude dogs.
- Area – activity zone approximately 400 sq m. Buffer zone 20 metres between the edge of the activity zone and residential property. Total area 3600 sq m (0.9 acres). The buffer zone should include footpaths and planted areas.

5.6 NEAP (neighbourhood equipped area for play)

- Location – within 15 minutes walking time from home.
- Target age group – unaccompanied and unsupervised 8 to 14-year-olds.
- Purpose – to provide challenging and stimulating play opportunities.
- Equipment – a minimum of eight types of play equipment, kickabout

area and facilities for skateboarding, bicycles or similar activities. Seating for adults and for teenagers to use as a meeting place. The area should also be fenced to exclude dogs.

- Area – activity zone approximately 1000 sq m. Buffer zone at least 30 m from activity zone to nearest residential property. Total area 8400 sq m (two acres).

From the above it can be noted that the NEAP definition does include “facilities for skateboarding, bicycles, or similar activities” and “seating for teenagers to use as a meeting place”. Teenagers over the age of 14 do often use play areas as a meeting place simply because there are few suitable alternative sites. The needs of this age range are, however, often not compatible with younger age groups and therefore should be given specific, but separate, attention in planning and at the site design stage.

In reality it is rare for NEAPs to provide such youth facilities, but consideration of the definition can begin to provide a framework for thinking of a planned approach for provision for older children. We will return to this point later in the section.

5.7 STRATEGIC, CORPORATE, AND INTER-AGENCY ISSUES

Provision for young people has relevance for a number of national, strategic and inter-agency concerns. Some of these are detailed below:

- Physical health – promoting exercise for the 14+ age group is a key target for Health Authorities and trusts – the provision of youth sports facilities will help the local authority in its partnership with such agencies aiming towards meeting national health targets.
- Mental health – suicide in younger men is a major health issue. Exercise and opportunities for social interaction are both recognised to be helpful as preventative measures. Additional partnership working with the Youth Service would enable greater impact.
- Drugs education and sexual health – the creation of recognised informal meeting areas for young people can provide an opportunity for detached youth work and informal education around drugs and sexual health.
- Crime and disorder – the Crime and Disorder Act places a statutory responsibility on local authorities to work in partnership with the police and other local agencies to produce a crime reduction strategy. Often included in such a strategy are practical measures to combat youth crime. The provision of youth facilities and constructive alternatives to crime can be an important element of such a strategy.
- Reduction of fear of crime – older people in particular can find groups of children or young people meeting in “inappropriate” areas in “gangs” quite

threatening. A similar group of young people constructively engaged in a recognised area can significantly reduced fear of crime in the elderly.

- Sports development – multi-use games areas and youth facilities encourage participation at foundation and participation levels in sports which are popular with young people for example football, basketball, BMX, and other wheeled sports.
- Social inclusion – facilities such as youth shelters and hanging out areas adjacent to youth facilities can be good both for crime prevention and foundation level entrance to sport and exercise. It is possible to enable take-up by young people who would otherwise be socially excluded from such opportunities (particularly with good partnership working between SDOs and Youth Workers). It should be remembered, however, that research indicates that the success of the development, siting, and consequent use of youth shelters is largely dependent upon the active involvement of local young people ideally through project work with “detached” youth workers. Direct provision of shelters “for” young people in isolation from such a process has not, in practice, proved successful.
- Agenda 21 - Involving young people actively in the democratic process is often a key plank in local Agenda 21 strategies. The kind of comprehensive consultation and participative role for teenagers we outline below in relation to the development of youth facilities provides one such practical means of achieving this aim.

5.8 THE LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

Discussions with council officers and others in the course of the wider study provided some insight into local supply and demand. The following themes are of particular relevance:

- What are youth facilities?
- What currently exists – how do we know?
- What is needed? Where ?
- Appropriate methods of consultation with young people.
- Other issues.

The aim here is not to provide a Youth Facilities Strategy for the Borough (which was beyond its remit). It simply aims to ensure that the Youth Facilities issue is highlighted when considering use of public open space in the Borough, and be considered when such provision could “add value” to more formal sport and recreation pitch provision.

5.9 WHAT ARE YOUTH FACILITIES?

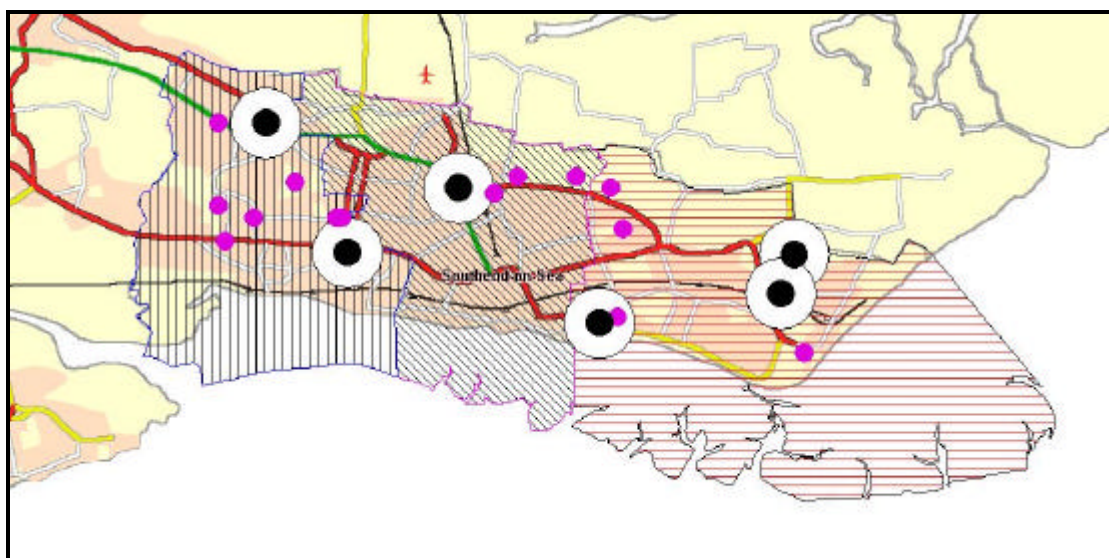
The following are generally agreed to be within this definition:

- Skateboarding

- BMX
- Multi-use Games Areas (MUGAs)
- Games (rebound) walls
- Kickabout areas
- Public conveniences
- Youth shelters and meeting areas
- Street basketball
- Graffiti walls
- Climbing Walls(outdoor)
- Teenage play facilities (e.g. trim trails).
- Adventure playgrounds.

5.10 CURRENT PROVISION- supply

The map summarises what is known about existing provision, based on observations made in the field survey work for the playing pitch study, and also the knowledge of Council officers. The map shows several things.



Firstly, it shows the location of 'casual use' facilities that would qualify under the definition of youth facilities provided earlier. These are the large black dots. These facilities are Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs) which may also incorporate basketball facilities. They are all located on municipal parks. There is also a skateboard park (at Shoebury Park) which is shown.

The white circles are 600 metre radii, which is suggested by the NPFA as a guide to how far can be comfortably walked in 15 minutes within the average urban environment (taking into account physical obstacles like cul-de-sacs and embankments.)

As will be seen, there are many parts of the Borough that are not within the 600 metre catchment of existing facilities.

The smaller pink dots are the location of other local authority recreation land.

Some of these other sites may be able to accommodate casual sports facilities where they are located in areas of deficiency. Existing municipal tennis courts might (in particular) merit consideration for converting where they are felt to be underused for formal tennis.

5.11 LOCAL NEED- demand

In terms of priorities for the future development of such facilities, it will not be appropriate to determine these in relation to what and where facilities are needed, rather only direct consultation with young people could achieve this end. However, experience based on consultation exercises in other areas has tended to suggest that youth shelters and informal meeting areas for young people are most commonly suggested by young people themselves as a priority. This has been confirmed for the most part by the findings of a youth consultation exercise that was conducted through the Borough Council Youth Services as part of the wider open space and recreation study explained in the introduction to this report.

To confirm local priorities consultation will be necessary with young people that might embrace an appropriate mix of the following methods:

- Detached youth work.
- Peer group consultation.
- In partnership with agencies in direct contact with young people.
- Consultation at existing events where young people participate/attend.
- Create consultation opportunities from “problems”.
- Questionnaires to schools (with support).
- Utilise school curriculum, for example, citizenship.
- Action (project based) research.
- Young consultants initiative.
- Planning for real exercises.
- Ongoing process with youth workers.
- Youth councils, forums etc.

Direct consultation with young people will be essential in relation to specific facilities to be developed. There is no blueprint or easier method. Provision could therefore be quite different in each case, given the differing priorities of Young People in different circumstances.

5.12 CONSULTATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES

The production of a Youth Facilities Strategy would be useful in the future and in so doing we have suggested a number of agencies involved with young people who might provide input. This list is detailed below:

- Youth service.
- Development trusts.
- Community fora.
- Planners.
- Housing.
- Area officers.
- Parks and Woodlands and Countryside officers
- Community Recreation and Play

- Early Years partnership.
- Police.
- County Wildlife Trust
- Youth councils.
- Youth Association.
- Voluntary action.
- Uniformed groups.
- Voluntary sector organisations.
- Community groups.
- Education services.
- Schools.

5.13 OTHER POINTS/ISSUES

A number of other potential issues and considerations are worth bearing in mind:

- Linkages – explore the value for linking informal provision such as youth shelters and meeting areas with more structured sport and recreation opportunities.
- Funding – look for overlap and common interests in relation to funding opportunities.
- Provide a Youth Toolbox – would be useful to provide a method to explain and ease the process by which young people can take initiatives forward (through council and other funding and support agencies).
- Don't forget ancillary facilities such as public conveniences.
- Consider the “core and cluster” model, that is, consider youth facilities not only in relation to parks and open space but also to adjacent communities.
- Regarding consultation with young people – promote awareness of best practice so that young people are aware of options wider than their own current experience.
- Youth provision and improvements – ensure good working partnerships between those providing fixed provision and those providing services and support to young people.

5.14 TOWARDS A SOLUTION - A STRATEGY AND LOCAL STANDARD FOR YOUTH PROVISION IN SOUTHEND BOROUGH.

Through its local plan policies, the Borough Council appears to have a clear, planned approach to the development of its playgrounds within the Borough, and an appreciation of the need for LAPS, LEAPS, and NEAPS but it does not seem to have a similar planned approach for youth facilities. The issue of

providing appropriate informal facilities for youth is recognized in the Borough Council's draft Parks Strategy summarized in Section 3.

There is therefore a need to develop a strategy for the development of youth facilities to counterpoint that for younger children. This section suggests how such a process may begin and gives some idea as to what the local standard might look like.

5.15 CONSULTATION.

Community consultation regarding the provision of playground facilities has increasingly become recognised as being of great importance to ensure play equipment is provided of the kind sought by local children, to ensure fears or reservations of local residents and householders are minimised, and to minimise vandalism through creating a sense of local ownership.

Such considerations are of even greater importance for the 14+ age group. Whatever the local standard may eventually turn out to be it will be of crucial importance that decisions relating to actual youth facilities are reached on the basis of extensive consultation with young people and the local community.

Each project will need to have its own individual consultation process with its own young people. Final provision is likely to be more individual and diverse than observed in playground developments for younger children. Equally the fears of householders and residents are likely to be stronger with the provision for older children, requiring a greater input of community development work to engender a sense of local responsibility for meeting the needs of the community's own young people (and the acceptance of the need for provision of such facilities). It is also very important to ensure the young people feel a sense of ownership of the development to minimise vandalism.

It is also strongly recommended that such consultation be undertaken directly with local young people in partnership with the youth service.

5.16 A LOCAL STANDARD.

While it is beyond of the scope of this exercise to begin to produce anything like a local standard it is possible to envisage what such a standard might look like.

It is likely to need analysis of something like the following factors:-

- Considerations of reasonable geographic access appropriate for this age group.
- Demographic analysis of the distribution and number of young people in the Borough.
- Analysis of levels of deprivation over the Borough.

- Analysis of the kind and quality of facilities encompassed by the standard.
- Reference to a specified level and form of consultation.

In some respects what might emerge could appear quite similar to the NPFA standard, for example:

5.17 NEYA(*neighbourhood equipped youth area*).

- Location - within 30 minutes walking time (three-quarters of a mile) from home.
- Target age group – unaccompanied and unsupervised 14 to 18-year-olds.
- Purpose – to provide a meeting area for young people with locally chosen provision.
- Provision – sheltered seating for teenagers. A varied range of sport, arts, and recreation and social provision appropriate to local conditions such as BMX, skateboarding, MUGAs, graffiti walls etc. It may even be appropriate on occasion to consider the need for revenue based provision such as support for youth and community development workers in relation, for example, to the use of funds secured through “planning gain” (to support the development process).
- Area – activity zone approximately 1000 sq m. Buffer zone at least 50 metre from activity zone to nearest residential property. Total area 8,400 sq. metres (2 acres).
- Additionally reference may well need to be made to the scale of facility in relation to the size of youth population in its catchment, and in relation to agreed deprivation indicators, and access to other facilities in the area (e.g. indoor youth centre). Similarly a specified level of local consultation would be advantageous.

It must be reiterated that the above is provided purely as an example of the kind of standard that could be produced, along with additional factors, and is in no way intended to be a specific proposal for the local situation in the Borough .

It can be seen that this kind of provision can cover a wider catchment than playgrounds, given the greater freedom and capability of teenagers to explore further from their homes.

In terms of “planning gain” from new developments a wider catchment therefore will need to be considered. Where new developments might be

insufficient to justify direct provision of such kind, should local standards be adopted it would be reasonable for the council to request a proportionate sum from developers towards such facilities for the town, which may be required with the completion of a number of such, in themselves, relatively small scale developments.

5.18 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS.

Clearly any strategy of the above kind is likely to identify the need for additional provision, entailing a corresponding need for capital against competing priorities within the council's capital programme. With no doubt extremely tight local capital budgets it will be important to identify the potential for attracting external funding if there is a realistic chance for such a programme to proceed.

In this respect it would be important at an early stage to analyse the potential for attracting external funding. Such a task is, unfortunately, beyond the scope of this report but it is worth noting that provision for youth clearly falls within a wide range of cross cutting national priorities as noted above.

5.19 RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations arising from the above review are contained in the final section of this report.

5.20 SUMMARY OF ISSUES

- Outdoor informal facilities for youth not only complement formal sports pitches, but also have numerous cross-agenda benefits.
- It is important to involve all interested parties (including users, managers and neighbouring residents) in the design and siting of these facilities, wherever appropriate. The development of a local strategy and consultation mechanism for such facilities (including a local standard) is considered to be important.

6. OVERALL SUMMARY OF ISSUES

6.1 POLICY

Relevant local and national policy and strategy deal with different but interlocking issues and provide important context in helping to look 'in the round' at the issue of playing pitches and outdoor sports.

- The Local Plan emphasizes the importance of local spaces for outdoor sport and the need to ensure protection wherever appropriate, as well as new provision in line with development and population growth.
- The Sports and Leisure Development Strategy emphasizes the importance of open spaces (including pitches) in delivering valuable opportunities to promote health within the community. It seeks the development and improvement of facilities to meet these and other identified local needs.
- The Parks Strategy stresses the importance of open spaces for sport. However, it also stresses the primary role that local parks serve for informal recreation, and that whilst providing local sports opportunities is important this must not be to the detriment of these other roles.
- Other strategies point to the cross cutting role of sport and active recreation in achieving corporate and community objectives.
- There is also a 'revenue dimension' to providing opportunities to play sport, which will be critical to a successful strategy for local playing pitches. Playing fields are prerequisites for the development of pitch sports – without pitches sport would simply not take place. However, just as important as facilities are individuals, coaches, programmes and people, who are responsible for organising, managing, promoting and sustaining sport.

6.2 FOOTBALL

- In general terms there are enough pitches to meet demand, although there is an imbalance in provision between adult and junior/youth size pitches (in particular).
- It is also likely that there are sufficient pitches to meet future demand taking into account population change and the influence of sports development from within the existing population.
- However, major new residential development will undoubtedly lead to a requirement for additional pitches and supporting accommodation. There may be a requirement to accommodate up to 14 additional male teams between the ages of 10-44, and 9 male mini soccer teams. Providing

sufficient to accommodate the older age groups may lead to a requirement for space to accommodate 7 adult football pitches (or 6.3 hectares).

- There are issues with the quality of many local pitches (especially drainage), as well as the existence/quality of ancillary facilities and equipment.

6.3 CRICKET

- Generally, participation in cricket is low compared with many other parts of the country.
- There is little prospect for substantial growth at the current time arising from sports development and the promotion of participation amongst young players.
- Supply of cricket pitches meets need and no clubs have identified a requirement for additional pitches.
- Clubs have expressed concern over the quality of facilities located on public venues.
- At certain venues there is conflict arising from the shared use of public space between cricket and other activities.
- Additional demand for cricket facilities from new housing is likely to be limited, and probably will not justify new dedicated pitch space. However, there should be scope for some new football pitch sites to be designed with shared use with cricket in mind, accommodated on an appropriately sized site.

6.4 RUGBY

- Good sports development.
- Major new housing is likely to lead to some additional demand to play rugby, but it may be appropriate to focus on improving existing facilities rather than provide new pitches.

6.5 HOCKEY

- In the longer term an additional floodlit ATP may help promote participation amongst the established clubs and also encourage any players travelling to facilities outside the study area to play at local venues. However, if such a surface were to be provided it should be suitable for use by a variety of sports both for training and competition.

- Major new housing is likely to lead to some additional demand to play hockey, but it may be appropriate to focus on improving existing facilities rather than provide new pitches (ATPs).

6.6 YOUTH PROVISION

- Outdoor informal facilities for youth not only complement formal sports pitches, but also have numerous cross-agenda benefits.
- It is important to involve all interested parties (including users, managers and neighbouring residents) in the design and siting of these facilities, wherever appropriate. The development of a local strategy and consultation mechanism for such facilities (including a local standard) is considered to be important.

7. TOWARDS A STANDARD AND OVERALL STRATEGY FOR PLAYING PITCHES

7.1 DRAFT STANDARD

One of the objectives of this study is to consider the possibility of a revised local standard to guide planning and provision of playing pitches within the Borough

There are estimated to be 123 pitches in total in the Borough, including 119 in community use (A - C), of which 83 are in secured community use.

There are 106.44 ha of pitches in community use (0.66 ha per 1000 people) or 83.76 ha in secured community use (0.52 ha per 1000 population).

In general terms this level of provision is considered to be sufficient to meet existing demand/need. However, it is clear that there is a great reliance on school pitches to ensure that demand can be met. There are also several teams playing outside the Borough, and if these were to play within the Borough it would place significant additional pressures on the pitch stock.

The existing pitch space per 1000 population in community use could serve as a starting point for developing local standards for the provision of grass playing pitches within the Borough, on a sub area basis. However, in those areas where local population (resulting from new housing) combines with targeted promotion of participation, there may be a need to review the local supply of pitches.

As was explained in the last section, the Borough is likely to have to absorb a substantial amount of new housing, and the probable location for much of this will be the Central part of the Borough and Shoeburyness. Although a lot of development will occur on 'large sites', much will be infill and windfall locations where it would be impossible and probably inappropriate to provide accompanying playing pitches. Even on the larger sites it may not be possible to provide 'on-site' playing pitches, even when justified by the number of new residents.

As a guide to planning and designing new (grass) pitches to meet future needs for football, cricket, and rugby the following draft standard and associated guidance is suggested for the Borough. (Because Hockey relies on artificial surfaces it must be considered separately.) Although stressing the importance of good quality, accessible local facilities it also recognizes that:

- new sports pitches cannot always be located within or immediately adjacent to the development they are intended to serve; and,

- Most housing (even on the smallest sites) will generate some demand for new sports facilities, and their developers should be expected to make an appropriate contribution.

Grass pitches should be provided on the basis of 0.66 ha per 1000 people.

- New provision should be well related in geographical terms to the population it is intended to serve (see additional notes below).
- All new formal provision resulting from residential development should be subject of a 'Community Use' agreement/covenant.
- Wherever possible new provision should be designed and laid out so as to provide the potential for shared use on a seasonal basis by both football and cricket. In practice this will mean that new sites should be able to accommodate the equivalent of at least 2 full size football pitches, with a site requirement of at least 2.1 hectares.
- All new provision should be serviced with appropriate changing accommodation and parking space in accordance with Sport England or other appropriate guidance, as agreed between the developer and the Council.
- Provision should be well related to public transport routes, footpaths and cycleways.

The detailed specification will need to be agreed between the developer, local community and the Borough Council. However, it is expected that it will take into account the following:

- All appropriate UK and EU safety standards
- Appropriate governing body standards for design
- Disabled access
- Quality of materials used
- Energy efficiency and conservation
- drainage

As an alternative to providing additional playing pitch space (either on or off-site), the Council may seek a contribution in lieu to the improvement of existing facilities that are in Community Use. Measures such as the provision/improvement of changing accommodation, better drainage and training facilities can help to increase the capacity and utility of existing playing fields in terms of formal sport.

Where facilities are being provided in association with new residential development it would be appropriate for the developer to contribute towards the maintenance of the facility to cover a period of at least 20 years from the date of adoption.

The following notes represent sound general principles of design, and include the following:

- Location

- Accessibility
- Playing surface
- Floodlighting
- Availability of changing rooms/toilets
- Social facilities
- Site suitability and security
- Parking

Location: the NPFA suggests that most active members of the public want facilities for informal training and home games in their own neighbourhood, and consider that 20 minutes travelling time, or three quarters of a mile distant from home is a reasonable yardstick. On the other hand, junior teams would probably prefer home pitches and training facilities to be located within easy and safe walking distance for young players. It is considered that grass pitches for football should be located no more than 2 miles (around 3.2 km) from the catchment population they are intended to serve. Because rugby teams tend to be focused on a small number of clubs (catering for a wide age range) players tend to be prepared to travel further to reach the 'home venue' compared with football (for example). New or improved provision for rugby shall be made within a radius of 5 miles (8 km) of the catchment population.

When considering the location of new pitches, the potential for conflict between recreation activities and other local land uses, must be taken into consideration. Proximity to housing makes a site more accessible, but nuisance can arise from noise, parking, traffic generation, etc.

Accessibility: for team sports at least half of the players are likely to come from outside the immediate area, and will therefore rely on some form of transport. The provision of convenient space for parking, preferably off-road and within the site, and a location near to public transport will make the site more accessible, and therefore more attractive to users.

Playing surface: pitches that are not drained and otherwise maintained cannot be used as frequently as those that are. Open pitches are vulnerable to dog fouling and other abuse. Guidance on the increase in playing capacity brought about through drainage improvements is available from various Sport England and NPFA publications.

Floodlighting: this can increase levels of usage of facilities, including for training. Floodlighting is essential for many higher-level clubs, and is desirable for training.

Additional specific guidance is provided in relevant Sport England factsheets.

Availability of changing rooms and toilets: the provision of changing facilities is desirable for all local sports teams, and essential for some. The detailed specifications for changing accommodation really depend on the nature of

the sports played at a given site. Changing accommodation for senior teams will need to provide space for teams and reserves. For football/cricket teams, this will normally mean 15 spaces per team, and rugby requires 20 spaces per team. A two-pitch complex would call for two home and two away team changing rooms. There will also be a requirement for separate match official's rooms (1 per game). The requirement for special facilities for junior and or female teams really depends on the circumstances. Specific guidance on these matters plus considerations such as disabled facilities, toilets, security, etc are provided in the governing body and Sport England fact sheets.

Social facilities: local sports teams value social facilities highly, particularly when hosting matches to visiting players. Such facilities make sites more attractive to players and spectators alike. Social facilities, especially where they include bar facilities and function rooms, can also be an important revenue generator for clubs. However, the development of such facilities may become a sensitive issue as they will generate additional noise, traffic for local residents.

Site suitability and security: for community pitches, the key features of any layout should be as follows:

- A site big enough to accommodate multiples of at least two football pitches (1.8 ha) with (if appropriate) a cricket table in between. The cricket outfield is shared with the other pitch sports on a seasonal basis. If both football and cricket are to be provided for the site requirement should be increased from 1.8 to 2.1 ha.
- Planting around the site edge to provide shelter.
- The use of residue grass for training and/or mini-soccer, together with floodlighting to enable midweek training during the winter. Floodlighting of one or both of the main pitches is sometimes difficult to install on 'shared space' layouts.
- Changing block located close to both pitches for quick access at half-time
- Vehicular access and parking availability
- A secure equipment shed (for goals, flags, mower, etc) is provided

7.2 ROLE OF SCHOOL PITCHES

The study has demonstrated the significant role that schools play towards community pitch provision especially for junior football and mini soccer. With the current government and national agency emphasis on developing sporting and other development pathways between schools and communities, this situation is likely to continue.

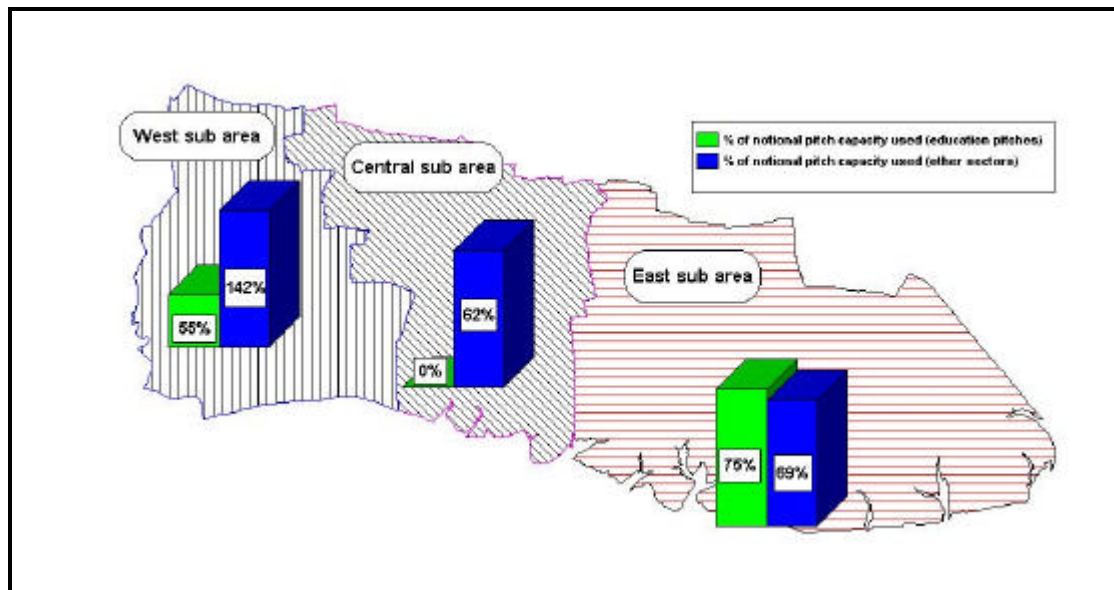
The use of school pitches by community teams is heavier in Southend than is frequently found elsewhere. School managers and governing bodies often consider community usage to be problematic in terms of cost, security, wear and tear and management, and the primary need to retain pitches for their own curricular requirements. There are potentially many advantages for schools in making pitches available – raising income through letting, forging closer links with the community and improving sports standards among the school's own students. Many junior teams appreciate the flexibility which school pitches offer, especially where multiple teams from the same club are involved.

However, the following diagram suggests that in some parts of the Borough, there is scope for making better use of school based facilities, whilst also taking some of the pressure off facilities in other sectors.

The bar charts are based on the notional capacity of pitches for games each week (excluding minisoccer) explained earlier in Section 4 in relation to the number of games (excluding minisoccer) played each week. They tend to show that:

- In the West sub area, significant spare capacity of pitches in the education sector, compared with apparent overuse in other sectors.
- In the East sub area a very high level of use of education pitches compared with that in other sectors.
- Very little (if any) use of education pitches in the Central sub area (although few are located in the sub area).

This diagram does not take into account the temporal demand for pitches. However, it does serve to illustrate that in the west of the Borough in particular, there may be scope for making better use of school facilities, if agreement can be reached with the schools themselves.



Given that schools and the community require access to sports pitches at different times, there is continuing scope for the use of school pitches to meet future demand. However, there are several provisos:

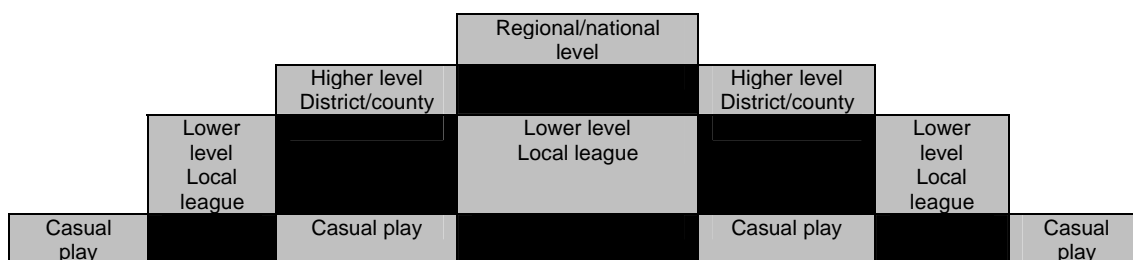
- The pitches must be physically capable of accommodating extra use by the community
- School management and letting policy must ensure that clubs have unhindered season-long access, subject to ground conditions, and at least some say in postponements, and that pitches are available at a rent which clubs, especially those catering for young people can afford
- Ancillary facilities must be available, to include changing rooms and showers

In view of the likely difficulties of finding alternative sites, the continued availability of those school pitches that currently meet community need is essential. Stringent efforts should be made to formalise the arrangements between schools and clubs by the use of more formal community use agreements to ensure continuity of use and security of access.

7.3 STRATEGY

The study has made it clear that it is not simply the overall quantity of pitches that is critical in meeting demand, but also the quality of both pitches and ancillary facilities. Teams will always prefer, costs permitting, to use good facilities in preference to poorer ones, and may be unable to develop and improve if they are constrained by poor facilities. The draft standard suggested at the beginning of this section reflects the importance of 'quantity' and 'quality', as well as 'accessibility'. However, it is also clear that participants will require different kinds of facility depending on their level of

play, and a single standard cannot by itself reflect these different requirements. Although this report deals primarily with playing pitches meeting the needs of the general community, it also recognizes the importance of encouraging a 'hierarchy of playing opportunities'. There would be benefit in adopting such a hierarchy to guide future investment in pitches and attract funding from other sources including the Lottery, Football Foundation, Regeneration Funds and the like. This would also provide the link with overall strategic and local sports development objectives. This hierarchy could look as follows:



Within this diagram:

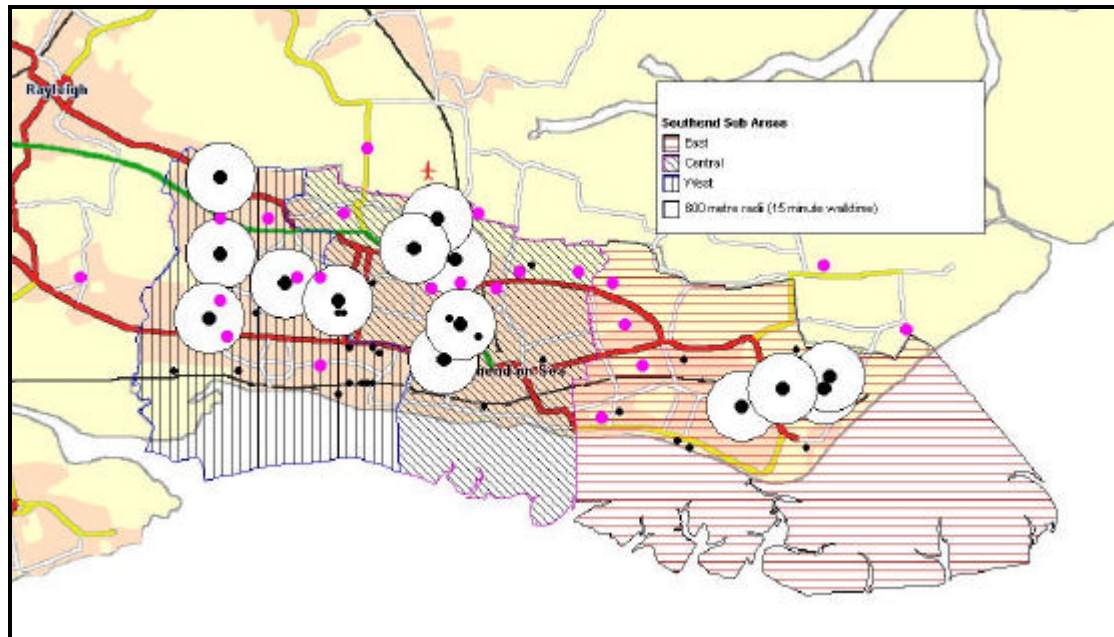
The casual (foundation) level would include practice areas, kick-about areas, MUGAs and rough pitches for casual play, encouraging initial participation. In the Borough this could comprise small grass areas available within walking distance of all communities, together with a network of MUGAs throughout the Borough. Young people (in particular) will benefit from opportunities to play sport on an informal basis and would therefore make use of MUGAs. They also have a contribution to make in terms of general youth provision (see the previous section). The provision and maintenance of MUGAs would be more cost effective if they were planned and provided on a dual use basis with local schools. Design factors to take into account would include:-

- Dual access (when on or adjacent to school sites) to enable ease of management by both school and community.
- Floodlighting (not to a high specification) perhaps controlled through a community building, or else provided free (maybe using low intensity sodium lighting).
- An appropriate surface and dimensions to incorporate a reasonable range of activities on an informal basis.
- A fence enclosure (more to keep balls in court rather than limit access).

The previous section examined the existing provision of casual play areas in the context of youth provision, and it is clear that there are few opportunities to have casual informal matches 'between mates' as opposed to organized teams.

The local league (participation) level would include pitches for regular competitive play by local league teams. The draft standard suggested at the beginning of this section indicates the quality of facility that might reasonably be aimed for in providing new and improving existing facilities. It is important that this level makes adequate provision not only for adults, but also younger players. Many junior teams do in fact play on adult size pitches, which is less than ideal.

The following map shows the location of junior and mini soccer pitches in community use including those just outside the Borough (larger black dots).



A 600 metre (15 minute walktime) catchment has been superimposed. As mentioned in the last section the NPFA suggest that this distance can be comfortably covered within the average urban environment within quarter of an hour. As will be seen, there are some areas not covered by this type of provision, although the geographical deficiencies are clearly not as serious as for the casual (foundation) level of provision.

The pink dots are other sites in community use, which have at least 1 adult football pitch, but do not have any junior or mini soccer pitches. These are sites where it might be worth considering remarking at least some of the pitches to address geographical deficiencies. (The small black dots are the remaining identified sites of all kinds.)

What is perhaps more significant though is that many pitches used for junior play are actually equipped with adult size goals, and this is clearly not desirable.

Other than the geographical deficiencies in junior and mini soccer provision, there are also clearly problems relating to the quality of many existing playing

pitches (largely in relation to drainage) and ancillary facilities and equipment such as changing accommodation.

District/County/Regional (performance/excellence) level, where teams have reached the higher standard of play and require enhanced facilities, would include spectator areas, floodlights and higher standard pitches. At this level clubs themselves are likely to be prominent providers, and the Council's role may often be primarily enabling and supportive.

This hierarchy can be developed for facilities for both juniors and seniors, and might recognise the value of pitches not in community use. It could be further developed for individual sports in conjunction with the Sport England and the relevant governing bodies. It is similar to the approach now being developed and/or adopted by the Football Association, Rugby Football Union, England and Wales Cricket Board and the English Hockey Association.

7.4 PLANNING FOR THE CYCLE OF DEMAND AND REMARKING PITCHES

Demand for pitches fluctuates over time, and it is essential that sufficient pitches are available to meet peak demand in the foreseeable future, through the availability of land. Comparative demand for adult and junior pitches, especially football and rugby will change. Although in practice many junior (i.e. 10-15) teams play on adult pitches with full sized goals this is clearly unacceptable in terms of the development of individual skills and the enjoyment of the young people concerned.

The study has highlighted an issue in respect of insufficient numbers of junior pitches at the times of most demand. It may be appropriate to remark some of the adult pitches to a smaller size where insufficient demand from the older age group justifies their continued provision.

In any event any future pitch provision should ensure that there is the possibility of flexibility in playing field layout to ensure that junior and adult pitches are interchangeable according to fluctuating demand.

7.5 ANCILLARY FACILITIES

Facilities such as changing rooms, training areas, floodlights, social accommodation and parking all play a crucial role in developing opportunities to play sport. At the most basic level, changing and shower areas for both players and officials are prerequisites, though many clubs and teams have become accustomed to even this basic level of provision being lacking.

There are many venues in particular need of overhaul, or in some cases provision of even basic accommodation. Investment in such facilities is expensive and providers need to be assured that such facilities will be used. However, it is surely appropriate at this time to ensure clubs and players actually enjoy the experience of playing sport and developing further

opportunities, without having to 'make do and mend'. The final recommendations include suggestions for the most urgent improvements on the basis that the minimum provision is for home and away changing areas for each pitch, showers and officials' accommodation. These improvements should be linked to the development of the standards discussed earlier.

7.6 HOCKEY AND ARTIFICIAL TURF PITCHES (ATPs) – INCLUDING A STANDARD

Section 4 suggested that whilst local participation levels in hockey might benefit through the development of another (floodlit) ATP in the Borough, the additional hockey players likely to be generated by new housing and sports development campaigns are unlikely in themselves to be able to justify a new facility.

Almost all competitive hockey (outside the curriculum) now has to be played on Artificial Turf Pitches (ATPs) designed and constructed to a very precise specification prescribed by both national and international governing bodies. Whilst ATPs are also used for other sports, notably football, their utility for different activities very much depends on their method of construction. For example, most ATPs are of a 'sand-based' construction that is appropriate for most levels of competitive hockey, and is also well suited to five-a-side football and training. However, sand-based pitches are unsuited to the very highest levels of competitive hockey (national and international); neither can they be used for 11-a-side competitive football. The Football Association are promoting a new form of ATP surface which they say can be used for competitive 11-a-side football, but this is not suited to hockey.

The facilities covered in this report should meet basic community needs, and it is therefore important that they are used by as many people as possible. Although durable and (potentially) profitable, ATPs are initially expensive to provide, and it is therefore important that an adequate level of usage can be assured. New provision could not be justified for just one team, and a minimum of 4 adult teams is felt to be appropriate. This would mean that 2 adult teams would play at home each week. Because of their robust nature ATPs can host as many games as time permits, and hockey matches will tend to be played in sequence on a given day. In addition to adult teams it is likely that junior play will also (in time) develop at a new venue. Based on the local TGR for Hockey (improved by 15%) to take account of sports development), it would take 49,539 people to generate sufficient players to form 4 adult/youth hockey teams (of either genders). This figure (rounded up to 50,000) could be used as a basis for a local standard for the provision of ATPs.

Apart from hockey matches at the weekends, there will also be a demand to use the surface for training during the week. Weekday evening football activity should also in time be a major activity. To allow for such activity, adequate floodlighting will be essential. Football activity (such as running 5-a-side leagues twice a week) can be a major revenue generator.

ATPs pitches should be provided on the basis of 1 pitch per 50,000 people.

- New provision should be well related in geographical terms to the population it is intended to serve (see additional notes below).
- All new formal provision resulting from residential development should be subject of a 'Community Use' agreement/covenant.
- All new provision should be serviced with appropriate changing accommodation and parking space in accordance with Sport England or other appropriate guidance, as agreed between the developer and the Council.
- Provision should be well related to public transport routes, footpaths and cycleways.

The detailed specification will need to be agreed between the developer, local community and the Borough Council. However, it is expected that it will take into account the following:

- All appropriate UK and EU safety standards
- Appropriate governing body standards for design (especially for hockey)
- Disabled access
- Quality of materials used
- Energy efficiency and conservation

As an alternative to providing additional ATPs, the Council may seek a contribution in lieu to the improvement of existing facilities that are in Community Use. Measures such as the provision/improvement of changing accommodation, better drainage and training facilities, floodlighting etc can help to increase the capacity and utility of existing ATPs.

In addition to the above standard, the following represent sound general principles of design. The principles includes the following:

- Location
- Accessibility
- Playing surface
- Floodlighting
- Availability of changing rooms/toilets
- Social facilities

Location: Sport England base their planning for ATPs on a 25 minute drive-time beyond which they suggest few people would be prepared to use a facility. However, the majority of 'home' users will be prepared to travel a much smaller distance, and the optimum drive-time should be no more than 5 miles (8 kilometres) from any part of the catchment population. Because they are far fewer in number, and more expensive to provide there should be an expectation on potential users to travel further, compared with traditional grass pitches. When considering the location of ATPs, the

potential for conflict between recreation activities and other local land uses must be taken into consideration. Proximity to housing makes a site more accessible, but nuisance can arise from floodlighting, noise, parking, traffic generation, etc.

Often locating an ATP at a school venue (where there is a community use agreement) is advantageous, as it would allow for school use during the day to make best use of time in least demand by the public. On the other hand, locating at a leisure centre would mean that a management structure is already in place to help market the facility and promote its use.

Accessibility: The provision of convenient space for parking, preferably off-road and within the site, and a location near to public transport will make the site more accessible, and therefore more attractive to users.

Playing surface: This must be in accordance with governing body requirements, and especially for hockey to enable the facility to be used for competition.

Floodlighting: As above.

Additional specific guidance is provided in relevant governing body and Sport England factsheets.

Availability of changing rooms and toilets: Changing accommodation for hockey will need to provide space for teams and reserves (normally 15 spaces per team.) The requirement for special facilities for junior and or female teams really depends on the circumstances. Specific guidance on these matters plus considerations such as disabled facilities, toilets, security, etc are provided in the governing body and Sport England fact sheets.

Social facilities: Nearby social facilities will be important for both hockey and 5-side-football; for hockey the away teams may travel a significant distance, and might want to socialise with the opposition after the game. Equally, there is an important social dimension to much 5-a-side football Social facilities can also be an important revenue generator for clubs.

7.7 RESOURCES

Inevitably the lack or availability of finance is a major determining factor in the development of sports clubs and pitches. There are various external sources of funding:

- Lottery funding through Sport England and NOF
- Football Foundation
- Football Association
- Foundation for Sport and the Arts
- Landfill Tax Credits

- RDA

Lottery funding, especially, is increasingly difficult to obtain as more calls are placed on a shrinking pot of money. Priorities have therefore been established, in particular concentrating on the most deprived parts of the country, according to official indices. Although the Borough has two wards falling within the worst 20% according to the Government's index of multiple deprivation, both these (Milton and Victoria) are located in central Southend where there are few open spaces for sport (except on small schools sites).

All sources of potential funding, not least the Lottery, are increasingly taking a strategic approach to grant distribution and the development of a playing pitch strategy is a necessary first step in improving local success in achieving external grants.

Two other sources of funding should be introduced:

- Developer contributions arising from new residential and other development, through planning obligations. It is clear from planning regulations that in principle recreational facilities are legitimate recipients for funding through such means. It is increasingly common to secure assistance towards off-site improvements, as well as on-site provision, so long as the beneficiary is related to the development in question. (Further advice is given in Sport England's recently published Good Practice Guide entitled 'Providing for Sport and Recreation Through New Housing Developments').
- Appropriately scaled social accommodation, including a bar, can often generate sufficient revenue to keep clubs in existence. Subject to planning considerations, this option could be considered on certain sites, and the involvement of breweries and other private companies in sponsorship or barrelage addressed.

The general issues set out in this section are reflected in more particular priorities and policies in the next section. They concentrate mainly on building the base of the hierarchy of local facilities discussed earlier. It is at this fundamental level that the Borough Council especially can make the most cost-effective contribution to improving local opportunities to play sport.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 GENERAL

RECOMMENDATION 1: THE STANDARDS FOR GRASS SPORTS AND ARTIFICIAL TURF PITCHES PROVIDED IN SECTION 7 SHOULD BE CONSIDERED FOR ADOPTION.

RECOMMENDATION 2: AN AGENDA OF IMPROVEMENTS SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED WITH THE PRIORITIES OUTLINED IN THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS.

RECOMMENDATION 3: MORE SCHOOL AND EDUCATION SITES SHOULD BE MADE ACCESSIBLE FOR THE COMMUNITY THROUGH IMPROVEMENTS TO PITCHES AND FACILITIES OF BENEFIT TO BOTH SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY. PILOT SCHEMES SHOULD BE PURSUED, PERHAPS INITIALLY IN THE WEST SUB AREA.

RECOMMENDATION 4: ALL EXISTING PITCHES SHOULD BE RETAINED, UNLESS SPORTS FACILITIES CAN BEST BE PROTECTED THROUGH REDEVELOPMENT OF A SMALL PART OF THE SITE, ALTERNATIVE PROVISION OF EQUIVALENT STANDARD IS MADE ELSEWHERE, OR QUALITATIVE IMPROVEMENTS ARE MADE TO OTHER LOCAL FACILITIES, OR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT IS FOR ANOTHER SPORTS FACILITY THE BENEFIT OF WHICH WOULD OUTWEIGH THE LOSS OF PITCHES.

RECOMMENDATION 5: THE DEVELOPERS OF ALL NEW HOUSING SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO CONTRIBUTE TO BOTH ON AND OFF-SITE PLAYING PITCH PROVISION AND ENHANCEMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH ADOPTED STANDARDS, AND AN AGREED FORMULA TO BE DISCUSSED AND SPECIFIED.(SEE APPENDIX 2)

RECOMMENDATION 6: THE BOROUGH COUNCIL SHOULD INITIATE AND COORDINATE, IN CONJUNCTION WITH APPROPRIATE PARTNERS, A LOCAL PITCH SPORTS DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY WHICH REFLECTS 'PLANNING FOR THE CYCLE OF DEMAND', THE ROLE OF CLUBS IN DEVELOPING AND MANAGING THEIR OWN FACILITIES, THE PROTECTION OF PLAYING SURFACES, THE ENHANCEMENT OF ANCILLARY FACILITIES AND DETAILED SOURCES OF FINANCE. THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN SHOULD BE BASED ON THE NEEDS OF THE INDIVIDUAL PITCH SPORTS AT DIFFERENT LEVELS OF PLAY, AND RECOMMEND ACTIONS LEADING TO INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL SECTIONS OF THE COMMUNITY TO PARTICIPATE AT ALL LEVELS OF THE SPORTS IN QUESTION.

8.2 SPORTS SPECIFIC

Football

RECOMMENDATION 7: SOME REORGANISATION AND RE-MARKING FOR JUNIOR AND MINI USE SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN. THIS SHOULD INCLUDE REPLACING ADULT GOALPOSTS WITH SMALLER ITEMS.

A MAJOR EMPHASIS SHOULD BE ON IMPROVING PITCH AND FACILITY QUALITY, INCLUDING THE PROVISION AND REFURBISHMENT OF CLUBHOUSES AND CHANGING ROOMS TO AGREED BENCHMARK STANDARDS. A STARTING POINT FOR THIS SHOULD BE THE IDENTIFICATION OF A NUMBER OF PILOT PROJECTS IN EACH OF THE SUB AREAS. IT IS SUGGESTED THAT THESE COULD BE LOCATED ON EXISTING FACILITIES IDENTIFIED IN THE PROGRAMME OF IMPROVEMENTS (RECOMMENDATION 13).

Cricket

RECOMMENDATION 8: ALL CRICKET PITCHES SHOULD BE RETAINED. ANY NEW PROVISION REQUIRED IN AREAS OF SIGNIFICANT RESIDENTIAL GROWTH COULD BE MADE ON A SHARED BASIS WITH THE PROVISION OF NEW FOOTBALL PITCHES.

THE OPPORTUNITY MAY EXIST TO REDUCE THE CONFLICT BETWEEN CRICKET AND FOOTBALL AT SOUTHCHURCH PARK THROUGH DEVELOPING SOUTHCHURCH PARK (EAST) FURTHER AS A FOOTBALL VENUE.

Rugby

RECOMMENDATION 9: ALTHOUGH THE LEVEL OF FUTURE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT IS UNLIKELY TO JUSTIFY THE PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL RUGBY PITCHES IN THE BOROUGH, SUCH DEVELOPMENT WILL PLACE INCREASED PRESSURE ON EXISTING FACILITIES. DEVELOPERS SHOULD THEREFORE BE REQUIRED TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF EXISTING RUGBY FACILITIES IN LIEU OF ADDITIONAL PROVISION. THE CONTRIBUTION SHOULD BE BASED ON THE APPLICATION OF THE ADOPTED STANDARD FOR GRASS SPORTS PITCHES AND ASSOCIATED GUIDANCE.

Hockey

RECOMMENDATION 10: EXPLORE THE PROSPECTS FOR DEVELOPING AN ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY USE FLOODLIT ATP IN THE BOROUGH. THIS MIGHT BE ACHIEVED THROUGH THE UPGRADING OF AN EXISTING FACILITY. IDEALLY THIS SHOULD BE LOCATED ON A

SCHOOL SITE. HOWEVER, THE DESIRE OF CLUBS TO HAVE SUCH FACILITIES WELL-RELATED TO CHANGING AND SOCIAL ACCOMMODATION MUST ALSO BE RECOGNISED.

ALTHOUGH FUTURE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT IS UNLIKELY TO JUSTIFY THE PROVISION OF A NEW ATP, DEVELOPERS SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION IN LIEU TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF AN EXISTING ATP, BASED ON THE APPLICATION OF THE ADOPTED STANDARD AND ASSOCIATED GUIDANCE.

MUGAs

RECOMMENDATION 11: A NETWORK OF MUGAs, SERVING EACH PART OF THE BOROUGH, SHOULD BE DEVELOPED. PILOT PROJECTS SHOULD BE IDENTIFIED IN AREAS OF GEOGRAPHICAL DEFICIENCY.

Youth Facilities.

RECOMMENDATION 12: THE COUNCIL SHOULD CONSIDER THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN OUTDOOR YOUTH PROVISION STRATEGY.

RECOMMENDATION 13: THE FOLLOWING SPECIFIC PRIORITIES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN THEIR OWN RIGHT, BUT ALSO IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE APPLICATION OF THE (DRAFT) STANDARDS IN SECTION 7, WHICH SUGGEST THAT THE IMPROVEMENT OF EXISTING SITES AND FACILITIES THROUGH DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS MIGHT IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES BE AN APPROPRIATE ALTERNATIVE TO THE PROVISION OF NEW PITCHES AND ANCILLARY ACCOMMODATION IN MEETING THE DEMAND FROM THE RESIDENTS OF NEW HOUSING PROPOSED IN THE BOROUGH.

		Priority
West sub area		
Football: Belfairs Sportsgrounds	Improvements to pitch drainage	High
Football: Blenheim Park	Improvements to pitch drainage	Medium
Football: Oakwood Park	Improvements to pitch drainage	High
Football: Oakwood Park	Renovation of pavilion	High
Football: Pilot project with school	Improvements to pitch drainage and changing (in association with negotiated access arrangements). Thomas More School.	Medium

Youth/casual play: 'West Southend'	Pilot youth facility/MUGA	High
Hockey: Thomas More School (or else at Warners Bridge facility, in Central sub area)	Improvement of ATP and ancillary facilities through a programme to be devised in partnership with the clubs.	Medium
Central sub area		
Football: Jones Memorial Ground	Provide changing pavilion	High
Football: Youth Grounds	Review pitch markings in association with local leagues and provide junior goals as appropriate.	High
Youth/casual play: Jones Memorial	Pilot youth facility/MUGA	High
Cricket/football: Southchurch Park	Consider relocating some football activity from Southchurch Park to Southchurch Park (East)	Medium
Rugby: existing local rugby clubs	Improvement of pitches and ancillary facilities through a programme to be devised in partnership with the clubs.	Medium
East sub area		
Youth/casual play: Bournes Green Park	Pilot youth facility/MUGA	High
Shoeburyness Garrison	On-going upgrading of facilities, including pavilion.	Medium

Indicative Costings

As a guide, costs of implementing the priorities set out in Recommendation 13 above can be derived from the following taken from relevant Sport England and NPFA publications:

MUGA (2 court)		£85000
New football pitches (drained)	adult	£40000
	junior	£30000
	mini	£14000
Pitch drainage		£20-30000
Re-marking/new posts	junior	£2000
	mini	£1000
Changing rooms/pavilion	2 team, 100m2	£120000
	4 team, 150m2	£180000
Floodlit full-size ATP		£350,000

APPENDIX 1: A SUMMARY OF THE SPORT ENGLAND METHOD

Summary of Sport England Method

The local assessment of supply and need for pitches in the four main pitch sports has been undertaken using the methodology that Sport England has developed over a number of years. The method can be summarised as follows:

Stage 1–Identifying teams

Stage 2–Home Games per Team per Week

Stage 3–Total Home Games per Week

Stage 4–Temporal Demand for Games

Stage 5–Pitches Used/Required on Each Day

Stage 6– Pitches Available

Stage 7–Identification of any shortage/surplus and discussion of any problems or issues, and

Stage 8–Discussion of Options

This method can be tailored to meet local circumstances as well as budgetary and time-scale constraints.

One of the outcomes arising from this exercise is the production of local standards for the provision of pitches. Such standards need to be based on notional areas for individual pitch types, together with an allowance for the desired pitch surrounds. The following are based primarily on NPFA guidance.

Pitch Type	Area (ha)
Adult Football	0.9
Junior Football	0.82
Mini-Soccer	0.3
Rugby	1.2
Cricket	1.6
Hockey	0.6

Within these overall areas can be incorporated the dimensions of the pitch surface proper (i.e. excluding pitch surrounds):

Adult football: the NPFA recommends dimensions for adult football at regional, county or lesser levels is 96-100 metres x 60-64 metres

Junior football: there are no regulation dimensions for junior size pitches. However, NPFA recommends different minimum and maximum dimensions for various junior and youth age groups:

- Under 18 90 x 46-55 metres
- Under 15 82 x 46 metres
- Under 13 73 x 41 metres

Rugby: from each dead ball line the maximum length of a Rugby Union pitch is 144 metres and the maximum width should be no more than 69 metres

Hockey: the specification of 91.44 x 54.86 metres at least for club/county levels

APPENDIX 2: APPLICATION OF STANDARDS

a) Standard for grass pitches

One method of establishing developers' contributions involves dividing the established costs for a required facility by the number of eligible dwellings. More detailed guidance is set out in Sport England's Good Practice Guide 'Providing for Sport and Recreation Through New Housing Developments'.

Actual contributions will depend on a range of local factors, including ground conditions, land ownership, fee levels, regional economic circumstances. As an example, the following illustrates the methodology for assessing the level of contribution:

Typical playing field development	
2 drained winter pitches	£50000
1 cricket pitch	£30000
4 team changing room	£150000
Parking, other ancillary accommodation and contingencies	£50000
Total	£280000

The area of this site would be 2.1 ha⁶, (the equivalent of £133,333 per hectare). The main report suggests that an appropriate overall standard for grass community pitch sport provision might be 0.66 ha per 1000 people.

If 6,000 new houses were being built with an occupancy rate of 2.2 (leading to 13,200 new residents), this would suggest an overall requirement for 0.66 x 13.2k = 8.71 hectares of additional serviced pitch space.

The overall cost of providing this would be around £1163.072k (i.e. £133.533k x 8.71 ha).

The total cost per each new resident would be £88, and £197 for each new household.

This is an illustration only and should not be used as a precise requirement for Southend Borough where a more detailed local calculation is required.

b) Artificial Turf Pitch (ATP)

The application of the draft standard and establishment of the required level of developer contribution is based on a figure of £350,000 that covers the construction of a full-size, sand based ATP to governing body standards for hockey, and includes floodlighting to an appropriate specification.

The cost per head of catchment population for this type of facility would be:

$$£350,000^7 / 50,000^8 = £7 \text{ per person.}$$

⁶ If the cricket table were excluded (i.e. provision were simply for 2 football pitches and ancillary facilities) an area of 1.8 hectares would be sufficient.

⁷ Based on NPFA published guidance.

If (as already assumed) new housing will generate 13,200 new residents, this figure would not justify the provision of a new ATP. However, it would lead to additional demands to use existing facilities. Developers might therefore be expected to contribute $\text{£}7 \times 13.2\text{k} = \text{£}92.4\text{k}$ towards the upgrading of ATPs within the Borough.

General notes

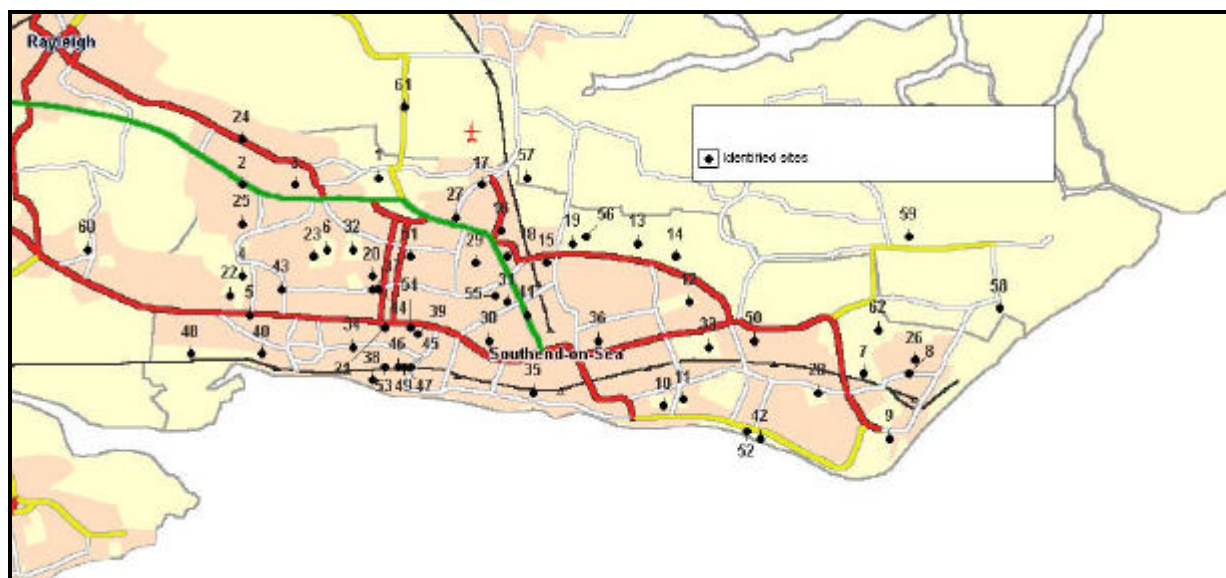
1. In addition to the capital cost of facilities, developer responsibilities to provide for maintenance. There are examples of 20-year maintenance terms being accepted. Guidance on local maintenance costs can be obtained from a variety of sources (including the Borough Council Leisure Services).

2. Developers (with some justification) might argue that it is the net increase in population resulting from their houses that should be the basis for calculating contributions, as factors such as out-migration need to be taken into account. This is a very complex issue and needs to be resolved by the Borough Council.

⁸ Where 50,000 is derived from the modified TGR of 12,384 for Hockey (see Section 4), multiplied by 4 to establish how many people it takes to justify an ATP., and then rounded.

APPENDIX 3: ALL SITES

The numbers on the map relate to the accompanying schedule.



Ref	Name	Sector	Availability
1	Eastwoodbury Lane	League	C
2	Oakwood Park	LA	A
3	Eastwood Park	LA	A
4	Belfairs Park (North and Central) Eastwood Road	LA	A
5	Belfairs North, Eastwood Road	LA	A
6	Blenheim Park	LA	A
7	Shoebury Park	LA	A
8	Elm Road P F	Club	C
9	Shoebury Garrison	LA	A
10	Southchurch Park, Lifstan Way	LA	A
11	Southchurch Park East	LA	A
12	Bournes Green Park	LA	A
13	Garons Park Eastern Ave	LA	A
14	New Youth Ground, Royal Artillery Way	LA	A
15	Victory Sports Ground Eastern Ave	LA	A
16	Ekco Sports Ground Priory Cresc	Private	C
17	Warners Bridge Sumpters Way	Club	C
18	Priory Park Victoria Ave	LA	A
19	Jones Memorial Youth Ground	LA	A
20	Heathfield Sports Club, Wellstead Gdns	Private/College	C
21	Chalkwell Park	LA	A
22	Belfairs HS	Educ	B
23	Blenheim PS	Educ	B
24	Edwards Hall JS	Educ	B
25	Fairways PS	Educ	B
26	Friars PS	Educ	B
27	Prince Ave PS	Educ	B
28	Shoebury HS	Educ	B

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29	Southend HS for Boys	Educ	B
30	St Helen's Cath PS	Educ	B
31	St Mary's C of E PS	Educ	B
32	St Thomas More HS	Educ	B
33	Thorpe Bay HS	Educ	B
34	Westcliff HS for Boys	Educ	B
35	Alexandra BC Alexandra Rd	Club	C
36	Bournemouth Park BC Larman Grn Wimborne Road	Club	C
37	Cavendish Sports Club Clatterfield Gdns	LA	A
38	Chalkwell Esplanade	Club	C
39	Essex BC Imperial Ave	Club	C
40	Leigh on Sea BC Rectory Road	Club	C
41	Southend on Sea BC Tunbridge Rd	Club	C
42	Thorpe Bay BC Thorpe Bay Gardens	Club	C
43	Bonchurch Road	LA	A
44	Clatterfield Gardens	LA	A
45	Conifer LTC The Ridgeway	Club	C
46	Crowstone & St Saviours LTC Victory Path	Club	C
47	Invicta LTC The Ridgeway	Club	C
48	Leigh on Sea LTC Adalia Cresc	Club	C
49	Leigh Road Baptists LTC The Ridgeway	Club	C
50	Southend LTC Broadclyst Gdns	Club	C
51	St Peters LTC Eastbourne Grove	Club	C
52	Thorpe Bay LTC Thorpe Bay Gdns	Club	C
53	Westcliff Hard Courts LTC The Ridgeway	Club	C
54	Westcliff on Sea LTC London Rd	Club	C
55	Roots Hall, Victoria Ave	Club	D
56	Southend Utd Training Ground	Club	D
57	Old Southendians Warners Bridge	Club	C
58	Cupids Country Club, Wakering	Private	C
59	Wakering Rec Ground	LA	A
60	John Burrows Playing Field, Hadleigh"	LA	A
61	Westbarrow Hall, Aviation Way	Private	B
62	Land off Colne Drive	LA	A

APPENDIX 4: GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Term	Definition
ATP (Artificial Turf Pitch)	A facility constructed of artificial material, which is required for competitive hockey, but which can also be used for football (5-a-side) and/or training. There are many different surfaces to choose from, and the selection will affect its utility for different sports. They are capable of use on a '24/7' basis with floodlights
MUGA (Multi Use Games Area)	A hard surface outdoor play area (normally enclosed by a fence) that can be used for a wide variety of competitive and casual sports, including 5-a-sides, kickarounds, tennis, basketball. These facilities can be provided on a casual access or managed basis.
Pitch	The term 'pitch' used in this study is derived from the relevant planning legislation as a delineated area, together with any run-off, of 0.4 ha. and above, and which is used for association football, American Football, rugby, cricket, hockey, lacrosse, baseball, soft-ball, Australian football, Gaelic football, shinty, hurling, polo or cycle polo. This definition originates from before the advent of mini-soccer that can have an area of 0.3 ha. including run-off.
Playing field	The term 'playing field' is used to describe the whole of a site that includes at least one pitch.
Secured Community Use	Facilities in local authority or other public ownership or management, possibly on public open space. Facilities within the voluntary, private, commercial or industrial sector that serve the needs of their members or the wider public.
TGR (Team Generation Rate)	Team Generation Rates (TGRs) have been used to compare activity rates with other studies elsewhere. A TGR is the result of dividing the number of teams generated in a particular area into that section of the population providing the players.