



Knowsley Council

Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council

Playing Pitch Assessment & Strategy

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Abbreviations

3G	Third Generation (Synthetic Pitch)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
APS	Active People Survey
APP	Active Places Power
BARLA	British Amateur Rugby League Association
BC	Borough Council
BME	Black and Minority Ethnic
BSF	Building Schools for the Future
CA	Community Area
CABE	Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment
CC	Cricket Club
CCPR	Central Council of Physical Recreation
CfL	Centre for Learning
CIL	Community Infrastructure Levy
CIPFA	Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy
CS	Local Development Framework Core Strategy
CU	Community Use
DC	District Council
DCMS	Department for Culture, Media and Sport
DDA	Disability Discrimination Act
DfES	Department for Education and Skills
DoE	Department of the Environment
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
ECM	Every Child Matters
EHB	England Hockey Board
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FiT	Fields in Trust
GONW	Government Office for the North West
Ha (or ha)	Hectares
HC	Hockey Club

ICT	Information and Communications Technology
KGV	King George V Playing Fields
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
LA	Local Authority
LCFA	Liverpool County Football Association
LCB	Lancashire County Cricket Board
LCR	Liverpool City Region
LDF	Local Development Framework
LEA	Local Education Authority
LEP	Local Enterprise Partnership
LSP	Local Strategic Partnership
MBC	Metropolitan Borough Council
MSP	Merseyside Sports Partnership
NGB	National Governing Body
NPFA	National Playing Fields Association
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NW	North West England
NSPCC	National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
ODPM	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
ONS	Office of National Statistics
PPA&S	Playing Pitch Assessment and Strategy
PE	Physical Education
PESSCL	Physical Education, School Sport and Club Links
PFS	Primary Future Schooling
PPG	Planning Policy Guidance Note
PPM	Playing Pitch Methodology
PPS	Planning Policy Statement
PQA	Pitch Quality Assessment
NPFA	National Playing Field Association
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
RFF	Rugby Football Foundation
RFL	Rugby Football League
RFU	Rugby Football Union

RL	Rugby League
RU	Rugby Union
RSS	North West Regional Spatial Strategy
SCS	Sustainable Community Strategy
SOA	Super Output Area
SPAA	Sport and Physical Activity Alliance
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document
SRA	Substantial Residential Area
TGR	Team Generation Rate
UDP	Unitary Development Plan
UK	United Kingdom

Executive Summary

- i. The Knowsley Playing Pitch Assessment and Strategy is an important piece of work as it provides up to date evidence relating to current and forecast needs regarding supply and demand for playing pitch sports, specifically: cricket, football, hockey, rugby league and rugby union.
- ii. In assessing local needs, the Assessment takes account of quality, quantity and accessibility by using an eight stage methodology endorsed by Sport England, and thereby supersedes the previous Playing Pitch Assessment and Strategy previously published in 2003ii
- iii. The Assessment has been prepared in accordance with Sport England's Playing Pitch Model (PPM) methodology within their 2003 publication entitled *Towards a Level Playing Field: A Guide to the Production of Playing Pitch Strategies*, which responded to Planning Policy Guidance note 17 (PPG17) - now superseded by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). These sources have had significant influence in changing planning guidance relating to the preparation of playing pitch strategies. In this regard, to apply the principles of plan, monitor and review it is necessary to assess the suitability of existing standards in the Knowsley Replacement Unitary Development Plan (UDP) and the Greenspace Standards and New Development Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). This is noting that existing standards were developed from evidence derived from a 2003 base line, and substantial change to publicly available provision has occurred in the interim period as a result of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) and Primary Future Schooling (PFS) programmes.
- iv. The outcomes of the Assessment, including its strategic recommendations, need to be considered alongside other evidence, including the Knowsley Greenspace Audit (2012).

Developing the Strategy

- v. The development of the strategy involved a six month programme of research comprising:
 - A review of existing local and national strategies and policies relating to outdoor sports provision and sports development in Knowsley.
 - Collation of a range of existing data relating to pitch locations and existing patterns of use, from sources such as Active Places Power (APP), planning application records, pitch booking records, league handbooks, sport / governing body databases and publications (e.g. local area data reports), sports development plans and aerial photos.
 - Verification of information through consultation via the distribution of questionnaires and interviews undertaken with stakeholders such as Local Authority officers, local sports clubs, schools, pitch providers and representatives from National Governing Bodies.
 - Assessment of pitch quality through site visits to 52 pitch sites.

- vi. Analysis of the above information and scenario modelling was undertaken on a Community Area basis (Kirkby, Huyton, Prescot/Whiston/Cronton, and Halewood) and relative to the individual pitch sports (cricket, football, hockey, rugby league and rugby union). The selection of Knowsley's four Community Areas is consistent with the established approaches to local standards within the UDP (adopted 2006) and the associated Greenspace Standards and New Development SPD. Sub-division in this manner was considered essential to accurately assess the local and sport specific variations in supply and demand, and the resultant bespoke strategic approaches required which are not immediately apparent when considering data at a Knowsley level.
- vii. The boundaries of the Community Areas are defined specifically to enable sustainable provision to ensure all residents of Knowsley are in compliance with existing accessibility standards of 6km (15 minute drive time) to outdoor sports facilities within the UDP and SPD. Map 1.2 within the main report, indicates the boundaries of Knowsley's four Community Areas.
- viii. Assumptions applied in forecasts relating to future demand are informed by analysis of existing participation rates, demographic change, national sport growth projections and localised benchmarking against Office for National Statistics (ONS) data/national averages as appropriate. The resultant percentage growth figures were subject to consultation with National Governing Bodies (NGBs) to ensure they were acceptable.

Local Context

- ix. The review of the planning context and linkages to other Council strategies and priorities, emphasise that outdoor sports provision and its wider functions as Green Infrastructure has a broad range of positive impacts upon many issues affecting residents of Knowsley, including health and wellbeing, deprivation and local economic factors.
- x. With regard to the above, the main strategies which are considered to affect outdoor sports provision are as follows:
 - The emerging Knowsley Local Plan
 - Knowsley Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2023
 - Knowsley Corporate Plan
 - Knowsley Replacement Unitary Development Plan (2006)
 - Greenspace Standards and New Development SPD
 - Knowsley Green Space Strategy 2010 – 2014
 - Knowsley Leisure Strategy
 - Knowsley Sports & Physical Activity Alliance Vision 2007 – 2011

Existing Local Standards and Policies

- xi. The following summary of the current situation regarding Knowsley's outdoor sports provision is based upon an analysis of the site audit and detailed evaluations available within the main report.
- xii. The existing quantitative standard for outdoor sports provision is 1.85 ha per 1,000 population, which when applied proportionally to the local population within Community Areas roughly reflects the current overall provision in Knowsley. However, the standard covers all forms of outdoor sports provision. Approximately 50% of the current provision (excluding golf courses) comprises either school playing fields or is not in public usage.
- xiii. It is apparent at present that a local standard based on land area alone is difficult to translate or easily compare to the actual provision of available pitches and facilities. As a consequence it is intended that the Playing Pitch Assessment and Strategy will provide appropriate recommendations for the modification of current policy to better reflect efficiencies of land use, together with actual provision in terms of meeting identified demands (both current and future).

Overview of Knowsley's Existing Supply and Demand Situation

- xiv. The audit of existing supply indicated that Knowsley has a total of 210 playing pitches (i.e. pitches suitable for Football, Cricket, Rugby League, Rugby Union or Hockey) on 87 individual sites. These include sites owned and managed by Knowsley Council, together with those managed by other private and public organisations, irrespective of public access.
- xv. There are an additional 19 football pitches (comprising 8x adult, 6x junior and 5x mini) which were formerly school playing fields but which have become surplus as part of the Building School for the Future (BSF) / Primary Future Schooling (PFS) programmes and with no current public access or existing sporting use. A further 26 additional pitches are proposed on 8 sites in Knowsley with secured community use which are either currently under construction or have an extant planning consent and are expected to be delivered by late 2012 / early 2013.
- xvi. Knowsley has 84 full-size adult football, cricket, rugby and hockey pitches, which equates to a single pitch for every 969 adults within the active age group (16-55). This is better than the average of 1 pitch per 1,015 adults for the 6 local authorities in the Liverpool City Region, and marginally better than the national average of 1 pitch per 989 adults.
- xvii. There are currently 143 existing playing pitches with secured community use or 68% of the total provision, with a breakdown of 135 grass pitches and 8 full size synthetic pitches on 38 individual sites. All areas have a majority of football pitches which form 88% of the overall supply in

Knowsley; however there are significant variations in the number and types of pitches in the different Community Areas. These are distributed as indicated in Table (i) below.

Table (i): Knowsley Playing Pitches – Available for Community Use

Sport	Community Area				Knowsley Total
	Kirkby	Huyton	Prescot, Whiston & Cronton	Halewood	
Cricket	0	3	3	1	7
Adult Football	15	14	11	7	47
Junior Football	7	22	14	8	51
Mini Football	5	9	6	8	28
Hockey	2*	2*	3*	1*	8
Rugby League	0	1	1	0	2
Rugby Union	0	0	0	0	0
Total	29	51	38	25	143

* Denotes synthetic pitches

- xviii. The proportion of existing playing pitches with secured community use within Knowsley is currently 68%. This compares favourably with the majority of other districts in the Liverpool City Region (average of 63%).
- xix. Of the individual playing pitch sites within Knowsley, 63% have associated changing rooms, with an apparent relationship between an increase in scale of provision and the presence of ancillary facilities such as changing rooms.
- xx. In terms of synthetic facilities, sand based pitches are suitable for hockey matches and football training, but they are rarely used in competitive match play for football or either code of rugby within Knowsley. The Football Association and Rugby Football League have however approved the use of third generation (3G) synthetic facilities for competitive matches. Currently 2 of the 8 synthetic pitches within Knowsley are 3G and were delivered through the BSF programme at Halewood Centre for Learning and Huyton Arts and Sports Centre for Learning.
- xxi. With regard to accessibility, all four Community Areas are all well served by a diverse range of sports sites proportionate to their land area / population size, with each having a minimum of two sports hubs, four local sports facilities and two single pitch sites at present. As a consequence, all of Knowsley residents are within a 15 minute drive of each type of facility in accordance with existing local standards.

- xxii. Notwithstanding the above, for the purpose of assessing the suitability of existing local standards for outdoor sports provision in meeting playing pitch requirements it is important to understand the land area of outdoor sports provision (in hectares) available for community use in each area. This is set out in Table (ii), although it should be noted that the existing local standard also includes provision for non-pitch sports.

Table (ii): Land Area for Playing Pitches by Community Area

	Community Area			
	Kirkby	Huyton	Prescot, Whiston & Cronton	Halewood
Overall performance against current local standards for outdoor sports (1.85 ha / 1,000 residents)	+48.18	+45.89	-17.04	-14.84
Total land area associated to or suitable for use as playing pitches (ha)	73.14	94.91	41.57	52.79
% relative to overall land currently in or suitable for outdoor sports use	45%	51%	92%	96%
Total land area associated to playing pitches (ha) with secured community use	39.36	68.72	30.08	24.18
% relative to overall land in playing pitch use	54%	72%	72%	46%
Average land area in secured community use (ha) per playing pitch	1.07	1.34	0.73	0.98

- xxiii. The above information demonstrates the unsuitability of current local standards for outdoor sports provision when translating to playing pitch requirements. This is noting that variable factors such as the presence of golf courses in only the Huyton and Kirkby Community Areas has a disproportionate effect on performance against the standards. As a consequence, there is no correlation with the overall scale of playing pitch provision or the general efficiency of land use relative to pitches provided. There are also significant variations between Community Areas in terms of land area associated to playing pitches which are in secured community use. In this context, it is clear that localised targets for pitch provision and outdoor sports provision are necessary to reflect the differences between community areas.

- xxiv. The existing quality and condition of pitches and associated facilities is as important as the overall quantity, given the influence of quality and perception upon pitch usage and latent demand. An overview of the results of the pitch quality and facility assessments within Knowsley is provided in Tables (iii) and (iv), with full results for each pitch and site available to view within Appendix G of the main report.

Table (iii): Knowsley Pitches - Quality Overview

Pitch Quality Rating	Number of Pitches	% of Pitches
Excellent	10	7%
Good	83	58%
Average	24	17%
Below Average	24	17%
Poor	2	1%
Total	143	100%

- xxv. A high proportion (64%) of existing pitches in Knowsley are rated good quality or better and only a small proportion (18%) are considered to be below average or poor.

Table (iv): Knowsley Changing Accommodation - Quality Overview

Changing Accommodation Quality Rating	Number of Sites	% of Total Changing Sites	Number of Changing Rooms	% of Total Changing Rooms
Excellent	8	33%	32	36%
Good	10	42%	35	39%
Average	5	21%	21	23%
Poor	1	4%	2	2%
Very Poor	0	0%	0	0%
Total	24	100%	90	100%

- xxvi. The changing accommodation quality assessments indicated that a significant proportion of facilities within Knowsley are rated as good quality or better, which is reflected in terms of three quarters (75%) of both sites and the proportion of actual changing rooms. Of the excellent quality ratings, 7 of 8 sites have been recently completed as part of the BSF programme.
- xxvii. A general trend was identified that a higher pitch quality rating on average is generally influenced by increases in site size and the presence of accommodation, and this was supported by consultation responses. However, there are some location specific anomalies which do not conform to this trend and there are more localised variations of pitch quality across Community Areas, with the proportions of pitches rated as good or better varying from the highest in Halewood (84%) and Prescott, Whiston & Cronton (82%) to significantly lower proportions in Kirkby (59%) and Huyton (47%).

xxviii. In terms of existing demand from teams and clubs, the audit identified all formal teams playing in organised competition (e.g. leagues) that require regular access to facilities, as well as fixture dates and times. This information is summarised in Table (v) by sport and age group, along with the Community Area from which the majority of members are drawn, with more detailed information available in Appendix E of the main report.

Table (v): Knowsley Teams by Sport and Location

Sport	Community Area				Knowsley Total
	Kirkby	Huyton	Prescot, Whiston & Cronton	Halewood	
Cricket	0	9	0	0	9
Adult Football	15	15	10	7	47
Junior Football	6	17	22	18	63
Mini Football	1	32	4	15	52
Hockey	2	0	7	0	9
Rugby League	0	0	4	0	4
Rugby Union	0	0	0	0	0
Total	24	73	47	40	184

- xxix. The above information has been combined with the audit of supply in terms of number and type of pitches required at peak times to assess the current level of demand and carrying capacity. This is undertaken through the PPM model and utilising Team Generation Rates associated to existing population demographics within Knowsley to produce an indication of current performance against peak demand requirements. This includes consideration of latent demand and team displacement to surrounding areas, including associated adjustments based on team equivalents.
- xxx. In considering the above, it is apparent that variations in pitch quality and intensity of use influences the overall carrying capacity per week of pitches existing for different sports in each Community Area, with the existing provision much more efficient relative to overall quantity in accommodating demand within Halewood and Prescot, Whiston & Cronton Community Areas, as opposed to Kirkby and Huyton Community Areas. This is demonstrated in Table (vi) which provides an overview of the current position relative to peak demand, once supply has been adjusted relative to carrying capacity.

**Table (vi): Current Supply / Peak Demand Analysis Summary
(adjusted for latent demand and carrying capacity)**

Sport	Community Area				Knowsley*
	Kirkby	Huyton	Prescot, Whiston & Cronton	Halewood	
Cricket	0	-1	+1	0	+1
Adult Football	+9	+8	+8	+5	+33
Junior Football	+1	+15	+7	-1	+23
Mini Football	+4	+4	+5	+6	+19
Hockey	+3	+4	+4	+2	+13
Rugby League	0	+1	-1	0	0
Rugby Union	0	0	0	0	0

* Knowsley total can differ as peak demand does not occur simultaneously between areas

xxxi. The key outcomes arising from the current supply / demand analysis for Knowsley are:

- An existing oversupply of pitches for all sports at peak time in Knowsley, except for rugby league and rugby union where demand equals supply.
- A small existing oversupply of pitches for cricket at peak time (Saturday - all, Sunday - all, and Midweek - pm) in all areas except Kirkby (no existing provision) and Huyton where all matches are currently played.
- A large oversupply of pitches for adult football in all areas (except Halewood which has a smaller oversupply), and consistent peak demand (Sunday - am) except in Huyton (Saturday – pm).
- An oversupply of pitches for junior football in Huyton and Prescot, Whiston & Cronton, with a smaller oversupply in Kirkby and a small under supply in Halewood. Peak demand in Knowsley (Sunday – am) is reflected in Kirkby, Prescot, Whiston & Cronton and Halewood, but differs in Huyton (Saturday – am).
- An existing oversupply of pitches for mini football in all areas, except Huyton which has a small undersupply, with peak demand (Saturday – am, Sunday – am) split between highest demand in Halewood (Sunday – am), and alternatives in Kirkby, Huyton and Prescot, Whiston & Cronton (all Saturday – am).
- A small existing oversupply of pitches for hockey in all areas for peak demand (Saturday – pm), except Prescot, Whiston & Cronton where existing demand equals current supply.
- A small existing oversupply of rugby league pitches in Huyton and a small undersupply in Prescot, Whiston & Cronton, however the latter should be emphasised given it reflects peak demand in Knowsley (Saturday - pm, Sunday - pm) where all matches are currently played.
- There is no current supply or demand for rugby union within Knowsley.

xxxii. In estimating future demand, Knowsley’s population demographics were used to benchmark with other areas relative to individual sports and age

groups to assess latent demand and inform potential growth rates which can be applied for future forecasts. These projections were utilised to estimate the potential future pitch requirements in each Community Area up to 2028, with the details provided in Table (vii) below.

Table (vii) Prospective Pitch Requirements per Sport in 2028

Sport	Community Area				Knowsley Average
	Kirkby	Huyton	Prescot, Whiston & Cronton	Halewood	
Cricket	5	7	3	2	17
Adult Football	10	13	5	3	31
Junior Football	13	16	10	12	51
Mini Football	7	8	4	4	23
Hockey	2	2	2	1	7
Rugby League	4	5	3	2	14
Rugby Union	2	5	2	2	11
Total	43	56	29	26	154

xxxiii. Current performance against the above standards inform the recommendations in the Strategy for site specific improvements relative to quality, quantity and accessibility which will ensure suitable adaptation to growth in future demand. In this regard, the translation of the above information into land requirements was necessary to identify recommended local standards measurable relative to population size to ensure that a sufficient quantity of outdoor provision is retained in the future. The recommended local standards are presented in Table (viii) and include additions for non-pitch provision (excluding golf courses).

Table (viii): Prospective Local Land Area Standards per Sport per 1,000 residents (ha) in 2028

Sport	Community Area			
	Kirkby	Huyton	Prescot, Whiston & Cronton	Halewood
Pitch Provision	1.07 ha	1.03 ha	1.13 ha	1.14 ha
Non-Pitch Provision	0.08 ha	0.08 ha	0.08 ha	0.08 ha
Total	1.15 ha	1.11 ha	1.21 ha	1.22 ha

xxxiv. With regard to the above, it is appropriate to indicate the current position relative to the prospective local standards. Table (ix) below, therefore includes the current position of community available facilities, together with details relating to future provision to assess the extent to which land area and pitch provision can be re-modelled to meet future requirements.

Table (ix): Knowsley Analysis against Prospective Land Area Standards

	Area			
	Kirkby	Huyton	Prescot, Whiston & Cronton	Halewood
Population	41,599	59,851	26,439	21,472
Requirement relative to Standard	47.84	66.44	32.00	26.20
Current Provision (ha)	42.95	73.62	32.18	25.44
Provision per 1 000 residents	1.03	1.23	1.22	1.19
Surplus / Deficit (ha)	-4.89	7.18	0.18	-0.76
Future provision per 1 000 residents	5.62	0.00	0.00	1.1
Resultant Surplus / Deficit (ha)	0.73	7.18	0.18	0.34

- xxxv. There is an overall surplus in Knowsley of 1.71 ha of playing pitches in terms of land area relative to the prospective Community Area standards per 1,000 residents. There are also surpluses in two of the four Community Areas; Huyton (7.18 ha) and Prescot, Whiston and Cronton (0.18 ha), with existing deficits in Kirkby (-4.89 ha) and Halewood (-0.76 ha). However the existing commitments in the form of future provision being delivered, would address these existing deficits to create a marginal surplus in Kirkby (0.73 ha) and in Halewood (0.34 ha).
- xxxvi. The adoption of an associated land area based standard applicable to the Council's four Community Areas within the Greenspace Standards and New Development SPD would result in the following:
- Kirkby – the standard would be satisfied with no significant buffer presuming all existing commitments are delivered, without the need for the retention of any former school sites (i.e. those not included in current calculations). Otherwise up to 4.89 ha of land comprising former school sites for outdoor sports use (or alternatively the equivalent additional land) may be required if some existing commitments are not delivered.
 - Huyton – the standard is currently satisfied, therefore all former school and other dormant sites (i.e. those not included in current calculations) would be capable of release. There is also sufficient flexibility to allow potential release of suitable outdoor sports land in other areas that could be suitable for consolidation to address wider regeneration priorities (i.e. sections of Pool Hey), ensure cost effective management and direct investment where it is most required.
 - Prescot, Whiston and Cronton - the standard would be satisfied with a marginal buffer, without the need for the retention of any former

school and other dormant sites (i.e. those not included in current calculations). However there is limited prospect for release of additional land which contributes to current provision calculations.

- Halewood - the standard would be satisfied with a marginal buffer, presuming all existing commitments are delivered, without the need for the retention of any dormant or former school sites (i.e. those not included in current calculations). Otherwise up to 0.76 ha of land comprising former school sites for outdoor sports use (or alternatively the equivalent additional land) may be required if some existing commitments are not delivered.

Key recommendations

xxxvii. The Strategy includes the following recommendations to ensure sustainable outdoor sports provision in the future:

- Progression of new local standards through the Local Plan process which will ensure that the quantity of provision is above the minimum local standards, including sufficient headroom allowing for rest and recovery of pitch sites, and re-modelling of provision to meet future needs.
- Identification of a hierarchy of provision and protection of all pitch sites of Borough, Community and Neighbourhood significance in the interest of quality and accessibility.
- Delivery of an ongoing programme of improvements across Council pitch sites using opportunities relating to economies of scale by prioritising enhancement of larger sites and reducing reliance upon single site pitches and smaller facilities. This includes directing investment towards identified upgrades required to ensure pitches and ancillary facilities are of an appropriate quality and design to improve carrying capacity in serving the current and projected future need / demand requirements of Knowsley and the local variations in its Community Areas.
- Maximising access for local residents to all existing and new facilities for a range of sporting opportunities to increase participation in all sports through an enhanced quality of facilities, accessible to all ages and abilities.
- Promotion of joint and partnership working across the Council and with key stakeholders, including providing support to partners (including local clubs and pitch providers) in the maintenance, improvement and enhancement of their facilities.
- Enhancement of community access to school pitch provision where required.
- Exploring the possibility of potential release of some surplus sites to address alternative development needs, where the space has limited value, function and benefit as existing and where it is unsuitable in terms of scale, shape or location to address deficits in other greenspace typologies.

- Ensuring facilities have a transparent and consistent calculation method for pitch rental costs, which remain affordable and accessible to all local clubs.
- Provision of efficient pitch booking systems which are accessible to local residents.
- Maintaining an ongoing process of data collation to inform the process of regular monitoring and review.

xxxviii. The above recommendations are intended to be delivered through strategic and site specific actions which are identified in the Action Plan section of the main report.

xxxix. The recommendations of Playing Pitch Assessment and Strategy are intended to be aspirational and positive in identifying qualitative improvements which respond to the issues identified through the site assessments, whilst reflecting the differing value of the sites and their potential. Nevertheless it is apparent that due to the ongoing decline in the value of public sector expenditure available, the Council cannot be expected to solely fund delivery through future capital and revenue budgets. As a consequence, the monitoring of the recommendations in the Playing Pitch Assessment and Strategy are not intended to be used as a performance measure or indicator for individual sections; rather to provide recommendations as opposed to obligations and commitments.

Playing Pitch Assessment & Strategy

Main Report

Section 1:

Introduction

Introduction

- 1.1. Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council requires a new Playing Pitch Assessment and Strategy (PPA&S) to comply with the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework¹ (NPPF) and existing detailed guidance in the form of *Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG17*². The study is also necessary to ensure a strategic approach to future playing pitch provision which will inform the Local Plan.
- 1.2. The increased awareness of the benefits of physical activity and the drive towards healthier lifestyles underpins the need for investment in sports facilities. Local Authorities have been tasked to increase participation in sport and physical activity; a key factor of delivering this will be the provision of good quality, fit for purpose, sport and leisure facilities which meet the identified needs of the local community.
- 1.3. Developing a strategic planning approach to the analysis of playing pitch supply and demand in Knowsley is necessary to provide a refined focus of priorities for future outdoor sports provision at an appropriate localised level. This will comprise;
 - A review of the suitability of existing local standards.
 - Protection of valuable and essential playing pitches against development pressures.
 - Identification of supply and demand issues relating to predicted population and demographic changes.
 - Assessment of the extent of demand pressures created by current and anticipated sport development.
- 1.4. The strategic approach will;
 - Enable a holistic approach to open space improvement and protection in combination with the objectives of the Knowsley Green Space Strategy 2010 – 2014³.
 - Provide a basis for ongoing monitoring to drive continuous improvement of playing pitch provision, from both a quantitative and qualitative perspective, whilst facilitating efficient use of resources.
 - Indicate Knowsley's requirement for capital funding, including any continuing need for developer contributions towards pitches and facilities, together with requirements for supplementary grant funding where available.
 - Collate robust evidence which can inform the provision of advice and decision making on planning applications affecting playing pitch provision within Knowsley.

¹ National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG, 2012)

² Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG17 (ODPM, 2002)

³ Knowsley Green Space Strategy 2010 – 2014 (Knowsley MBC, 2010)

- Ensure the availability of an objective basis for identifying and assessing potential land disposals within Knowsley, whilst directing priorities for compensatory provision as required.
 - Promote sports development and acknowledgement of the value of leisure services in Knowsley, through the identification of existing playing pitch use and identifying potential actions required to accommodate latent demand.
 - Secure an improved framework for co-ordination between Knowsley's pitch providers within different sectors, with priorities identified and investment programme objectives integrated.
 - Offer an information resource to local residents and other users of Knowsley's playing pitches in terms of existing facilities and teams.
- 1.5. The NPPF states that Local Planning Authorities should undertake robust assessments of existing and future needs of their communities for open space, sports and recreation facilities. In this regard, the PPA&S updates the outdoor sports provision aspect which was previously informed by a Playing Pitch Assessment and Strategy⁴ prepared in 2003 and covering the time period 2003-2013. This supplements the wider scope of evidence relating to public open space within Knowsley's Open Space, Sport and Recreation Needs Assessment and Strategy (published April 2005), which has subsequently been updated through a new Greenspaces Audit⁵ - development in parallel with this document.
- 1.6. This study has been prepared in accordance with Sport England's Playing Pitch Model (PPM) methodology within their 2003 publication entitled *Towards a Level Playing Field: A Guide to the Production of Playing Pitch Strategies*⁶, which responded to PPG17⁷ (now superseded by the NPPF). Both of these sources have had significant influence in changing planning guidance relating to the preparation of playing pitch strategies. Furthermore Sport England advocate the approach of integrating and co-ordinating playing pitch provision with green space strategies (i.e. the Knowsley Green Space Strategy), which remains a key objective of the study.
- 1.7. To enable a thorough assessment, an initial audit of all pitches, users and providers within Knowsley is undertaken; including parks and school playing fields, as well as private sector facilities and those run by further education organisations. However these details are refined for the purposes of the study to allow detailed assessment and strategy relating only to those pitches where they currently make or have the potential to make, a contribution to the stock of pitches within Knowsley which are available for community use and benefit. This assessment is based on pitch type, location and quality of facilities and includes some school sites,

⁴ Knowsley Playing Pitch Assessment and Strategy (Strategic Leisure, 2003)

⁵ Greenspace Audit (Knowsley MBC, 2012)

⁶ Towards a Level Playing Field: A Guide to the Production of Playing Pitch Strategies (Sport England / CCPR, 2003)

⁷ Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation (ODPM, 2002)

with consideration in the context of the local demand and catchment area covered by the pitches.

- 1.8. The focus of the strategy is upon pitch provision for the following team sports; cricket, football, hockey and rugby (league and union), with a primary focus upon voluntary participation in competitive activity (for example, a sports club's league and cup fixtures) for adults and young people.
- 1.9. The specific sports have been identified for assessment based on the fact that at national level they are the main playing pitch sports; with football in particular, and increasingly cricket, hockey, rugby union and rugby league as a result of sport development initiatives, being high participant sports within the wider Liverpool City Region.
- 1.10. The study does not include professional sports participation present in Knowsley (for example, the Liverpool and Everton Football Club Academies) or assess in detail the informal / casual sport use of existing playing pitches or other open spaces, although the latter is accounted for in terms of impact upon quality. In addition, the exclusive playing of sport as part of the school curriculum with no additional community access is also not covered by the strategy as this is controlled by separate educational requirements.
- 1.11. Provision for other pitch sports such as American Football, Netball, etc, have been excluded from consideration within the study as there was insufficient evidence of local participation within Knowsley or surrounding districts to allow appropriate assessment and forecasting of potential need through the PPM model. Nevertheless a long term strategy will need to provide sufficient flexibility through headroom capacity to ensure sufficient flexibility to accommodate growth in other pitch sports, which may need to be accommodated in future studies as identified through a formalised monitoring and review process.
- 1.12. Further to the above, non-pitch sports such as Badminton, Basketball, Bowls, Golf, Tennis and Swimming are considered only in terms of the wider context of any requisite inclusion in land based standards, rather than detailed assessment through the PPM model. This is noting that these sports are difficult to assess due to a variety of issues such as predominance of informal use, and / or the emphasis on provision of indoor facilities. As a consequence, there is a separate detailed audit of these facilities included alternatively in a separate Greenspaces Audit which alongside this study will inform updates to the Council's Green Space and Leisure Strategies.
- 1.13. The strategy is intended to cover a sixteen year period 2012 – 2028, with an initial five year action plan at the end of this document, and is specifically designed to reflect the period covered by the Local Plan which

has strategic policies within its emerging Core Strategy which are expected to be adopted in 2013.

- 1.14. As with all strategies, the consultation and research undertaken, although accommodating known future developments, can only be based on the situation at the current time. The information collated will provide the baseline for regular monitoring of pitch supply and demand in the Borough that will inform review relative to the future projections made through the Playing Pitch Model (PPM) and / or standards subsequently taken forward through the Local Plan or Supplementary Planning Documents.

National context

- 1.15. There is currently a national agenda for sport, leisure and physical activity and numerous studies on the health of the nation. Table 1.1 below lists the key documents, with a summary of each available in Appendix A.

Table 1.1: National and Regional Guidance Documents

National
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG, 2012) • Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG17 (ODPM, 2002) • Creating a Sporting Habit for Life (DCMS, 2012) • Sport England Strategy 2012- 2017 (Sport England, 2012) • Physical Education and Sport Strategy for Young People (Department for Education, 2008) • The Framework for Sport: A Vision for 2020 (Sport England, 2004) • Everyday Sport Campaign (Sport England, 2005) • Choosing Health: Making Healthy Choices Easier (Department of Health White Paper, 2005) • Public Sport and Recreation Services, Making them Fit for the Future (Audit Commission/Sport England, 2006) • Shaping Places Through Sport (Sport England / DCMS, 2009) • 2012 London Olympic Games Legacy
Regional
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Merseyside Strategy for Sport and Physical Activity 2006-2010 (Merseyside Sports Partnership, 2006)

- 1.16. All of these studies and strategies point towards a need to raise participation levels to improve health. Knowsley’s local strategic documents translate the key objectives of national and regional guidance to a localised level.

Local Context

- 1.17. Knowsley has a population approaching 150 000 and forms part of the Merseyside conurbation, between the city of Liverpool to the west and St. Helens to the east. Sefton and West Lancashire districts lie to the north while Halton district lies the south. These areas functionally form part of

the wider Liverpool City Region. Map 1.1 below indicates the position of Knowsley within its sub-regional context. In this regard, it should be noted that although Cheshire West and Chester was referred to as being within the Liverpool City Region by the North West Regional Spatial Strategy⁸ (RSS), it is not within the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) of the same name, the Districts with which are utilised for the purpose of comparison.

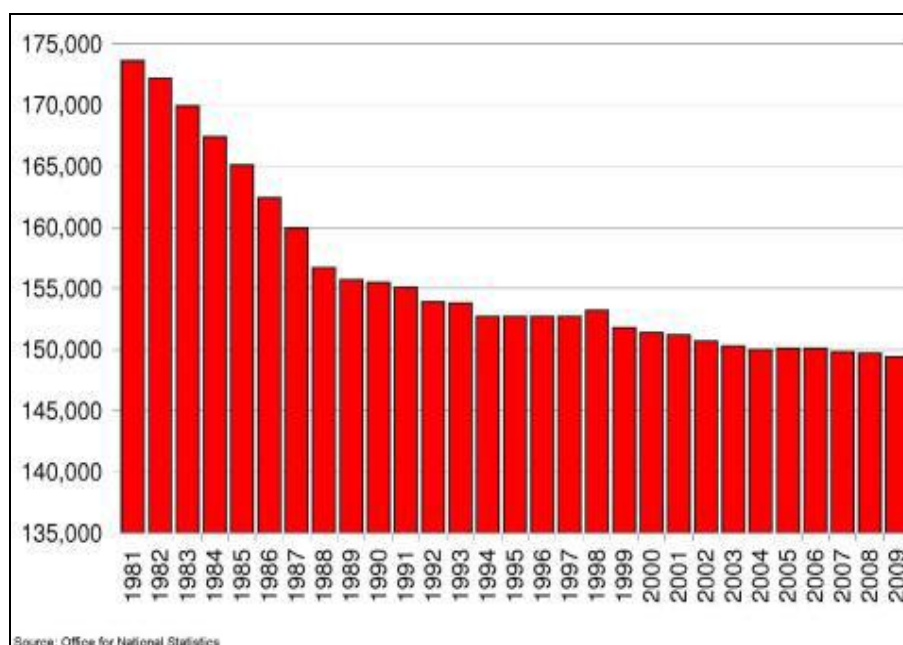
Map 1.1: Knowsley’s Sub-regional Context (defined by RSS)



⁸ The North West Plan: Regional Spatial Strategy to 2021 (GONW, 2008)

- 1.18. The Borough comprises a belt of large suburban towns, villages and open areas and has good transport links, particularly in an east-west direction, to Liverpool City Centre, the Port of Liverpool, Liverpool John Lennon Airport, Manchester, and the wider national motorway and rail networks.
- 1.19. In 2009, the population was estimated to be 149 361⁹. National projections indicate that the Borough's population will increase by about 4,100 between 2008 and 2027, but this will be driven by an increase in those aged 65 and over by 8 100, with those under 65 projected to decrease by 4 000¹⁰.
- 1.20. The majority of Knowsley residents live in the suburban towns of Huyton, Kirkby, Prescot, Whiston and Halewood, with a general trend of an ageing population. The number of persons aged under 65 is projected to decrease by 4 000, while those aged 65 and over is projected to increase by 8 100 during the next 15 years¹¹.
- 1.21. In terms of longer term historical population trends, Knowsley's population declined by 20 000 between 1981 and 1991, which was comparable to a similar scale of population decline in the previous decade; 1971-1981. To address this population decline, the Council embarked upon an ambitious "stabilisation strategy" in 1991. This has resulted in a general stabilisation of population since 2001, as illustrated in Figure 1.1 below, although Knowsley is still estimated to be the Local Authority with the 9th largest population decrease in England and Wales during this period (-1.4%)¹².

Figure 1.1: Knowsley's Population Trends



⁹ Mid Year Population Estimates 2009 (ONS, 2009)
¹⁰ 2008-based Sub-national Population Projections (ONS, 2010)
¹¹ 2008-based Sub-national Population Projections (ONS, 2010)
¹² Annual Population Estimates 2010 (ONS, 2010)

- 1.22. Knowsley has identified the need to develop a Playing Pitch Assessment and Strategy for the Borough, to assess current provision, and identify future need for investment and development. This is critical given the pressures upon available land for development, and the presence of variations between some areas of the Borough in terms of open space provision.
- 1.23. To enable the identification of an accurate overview of playing pitch issues relating to surplus and deficiencies across the sports assessed, data needs to be collated at a scale to provide local area based assessments. This approach requires a number of smaller defined geographic areas within the Borough to highlight localised variations relating to under or over supply of provision. Localised assessment is essential to determine whether facilities are in an appropriate location to meet existing and future demand, as opposed to relying upon figures for Knowsley as a whole, which provide a more general overview.
- 1.24. With regard to the above, it should be noted that Knowsley Council has a well established concept of catchment areas for open space models relating to quantitative and accessibility assessment, with 38 Substantial Residential Areas (SRAs) introduced in 1995, updated in 1999 and taken forward via the Knowsley Replacement Unitary Development¹³ (UDP) adopted in 2006 and subsequent Greenspace Standards and New Development Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)¹⁴ adopted in 2007. SRAs are utilised as the urban catchment areas for existing local standards introduced via UDP and informed by the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Needs Assessment and Strategy¹⁵ (published in 2005) and relate to amenity green space, parks & gardens and allotments. This is due to the respective areas translating appropriately in terms of population size for quantitative standards, together with the range of recommended distances for accessibility standards (maximum 1.6km) for each typology reflecting barriers to safe movement (e.g. railway lines). SRAs however remain unsuitable for outdoor sports provision, as there is evidence from the 2005 needs assessment that residents of the Borough will travel beyond SRA boundaries to access these types of facilities, which resulted in a much greater maximum recommended distance for the accessibility standard of 6km.
- 1.25. The Council utilises larger catchment areas measurements for outdoor sports provision, known as 'Community Areas' in accordance with the adopted Greenspace Standards and New Development SPD. These analysis sub-areas are a collection of SRAs which relate to the four largest distinct settlements within Knowsley Borough - Kirkby, Huyton, Prescot (inc. Whiston and Cronton) and Halewood. In this context, in the interest of consistency it is appropriate to utilise these existing assessment areas

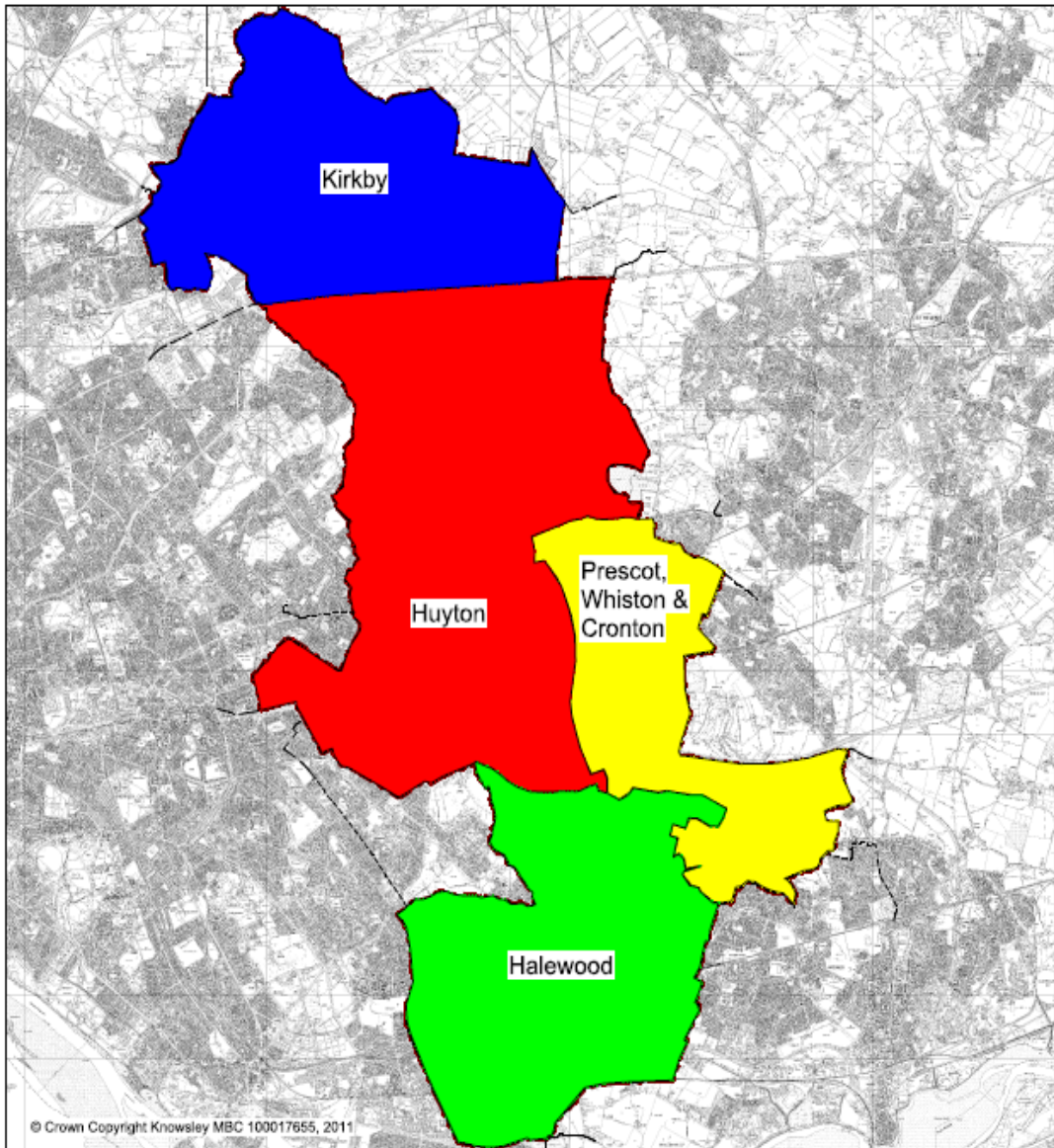
¹³ Knowsley Replacement Unitary Development Plan (Knowsley MBC, 2006)

¹⁴ Greenspace Standards and New Development Supplementary Planning Document (Knowsley MBC, 2007)

¹⁵ Knowsley Open Space, Recreation and Sports Needs Assessment and Strategy (PMP, 2005)

within the Playing Pitch Assessment and Strategy, rather than the SRAs or ward areas which are considered too small to accurately reflect travel patterns and catchment areas for individual teams. The boundaries of the Community Areas are defined to enable sustainable provision to ensure all residents of Knowsley are in compliance with existing accessibility standards of 6km (15 minute drive time) to outdoor sports facilities within the UDP and SPD. Map 1.2, indicates the boundaries of Knowsley's four Community Areas.

Map 1.2: Knowsley's Community Areas



1.26. In the context of the above, Table 1.2 provides a more detailed overview of the ward areas and SRAs which comprise Knowsley's four Community Areas.

Table 1.2: Overview of Knowsley's Community Areas

Community Area	Wards	SRAs	Total Population (and % of Borough)
Kirkby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cherryfield - Kirkby Central - Northwood - Park - Shevington - Whitefield 	1 - 7	41 599 (28%)
Huyton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Longview - Page Moss - Prescott West (Knowsley Village) - Roby - St. Bartholomews - St. Gabriels - St. Michaels - Stockbridge - Swanside 	8 - 23	59 851 (40%)
Prescot, Whiston and Cronton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prescot East - Prescot West (exc. Knowsley Village) - Whiston North - Whiston South 	24 – 31	26 439 (18%)
Halewood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Halewood North - Halewood South - Halewood West 	32 - 38	21 472 (14%)

* Please note that individual maps indicating the boundary of each SRA are available to view within the Greenspace Standards and New Development SPD.

- 1.27. In considering the potential demand characteristics of Knowsley, the above information demonstrates the significant variance of total population within each Community Area. In this regard, it is also important to consider the potential influence of local demographic and socio-economic characteristics. For example, different age groups are known to register higher participation rates in a number of sport and leisure activities; deprived communities often experience constraints relating to access to services, opportunities and car ownership levels can affect the range of facilities which can be accessed by local residents.
- 1.28. Table 1.3 on the following pages, summarises the demographic characteristics of Knowsley relating to population, economy and mobility, and identifies the potential implications for playing pitch provision which will need to be factored into the assessment.

Table 1.3: Demographic Analysis of Knowsley

Demographic	Knowsley Profile	Potential Implications for Playing Pitch Provision
Population	<p>The population of Knowsley is estimated to be 149 361, comprising a gender composition of 47.3% males and 52.7% females.</p> <p>The proportion of Knowsley's population in the age range of 6-55 traditionally associated to active age groups accords with the national average of 66%. Within this the 6-35 age group comprise the majority of residents which play pitch sports, which again is comparable to the national average at 38%. Furthermore the 0-15 age range which will influence current and short term future demand for mini and junior pitches is also comparable to the national average of 18%.¹⁶</p> <p>National projections indicate that the Knowsley's population will increase by about 4 100 between 2008 and 2027, although this will be focused upon over 55s¹⁷</p> <p>Knowsley is estimated to be the Local Authority with the 9th largest population decrease in England and Wales since 2001 (-1.4%) and the number of persons aged under 65 projected to decrease by 4 000, while those aged 65 and over is projected to increase by 8 100 during the next 15 years¹⁸.</p>	<p>The population of Knowsley has historical trends of long term decline and has current demographics indicating an ageing population. National trends suggest that sports participation generally declines from the age of 16 onwards.</p> <p>Pitch provision will have to reflect the changing demographics, with potential opportunities to reduce the overall level of pitch provision and improve the quality of what is retained depending upon the outcome of current and future demand analysis.</p>

¹⁶ All Data from Mid Year Population Estimates 2009 (ONS, 2009)

¹⁷ 2008-based Sub-national Population Projections (ONS, 2010)

¹⁸ 2008-based Sub-national Population Projections (ONS, 2010)

Demographic	Knowsley Profile	Potential Implications for Playing Pitch Provision
Economy	<p>Knowsley is ranked high in all measures of deprivation and is among the most deprived Local Authorities in England¹⁹.</p> <p>An important measure of deprivation is the percentage of the population who live in Super Output Areas (SOAs) which are in the upper 10% most deprived in the country. In Knowsley's case, 45 of the Borough's 99 SOAs are in the 10% most deprived in England. This accounts for 67 089 people or approximately 45 % of the Borough's overall population. The most deprived areas of the Borough can be found in the Kirkby and Huyton Community Areas.</p> <p>Over the last decade the Borough's main growth sector has been in public services with the Public Administration, Education and Health sectors accounting for over one third of all employment ²⁰ in 2008. The main employers in this sector are the Local Authority and Whiston Hospital. National trends indicate that employment in the public sector has declined and will continue to do so, following Government spending cuts in 2010/11.</p> <p>Although Knowsley has had recent success in creating jobs, it still has high levels of worklessness. In March 2011, the number of persons claiming Job Seeker's Allowance was 6 087.</p>	<p>Pricing for pitch hire and other sports facilities within Knowsley will need to be mindful of local circumstances to maximise inclusivity.</p> <p>National trends have been identified which suggest a positive relationship between sports participation and increased household income.</p>

¹⁹ Index of Multiple Deprivation 2007 (CLG, 2008)

²⁰ Knowsley MBC: Core Evidence Base Report (Regeneris Consulting Ltd, 2007)

Demographic	Knowsley Profile	Potential Implications for Playing Pitch Provision
Mobility	<p>The most recent available surveys relating to percentage of households without access to a car suggested the Merseyside average is 38%. However, within Knowsley approximately 42% of households do not have access to a car, which when compared against other local authorities within England, then Knowsley is ranked 22nd out of 376 local authorities with residents having no access to a car. This is higher than the national average which identified that 27% of all UK households have no car.²¹</p> <p>Current information suggests that licensed vehicles (cars and motorcycles combined) in the UK rose by 13.46% between 2001 and 2010, with a national average of 0.48 per person. In comparison, Knowsley now has 0.36 licensed vehicles per person, which is 25% below the UK average and the North West region average (0.47 per person), and 10% below the Liverpool City Region (0.40 per person) average²². This information suggests that the trend of low car ownership in Knowsley identified within the 2001 census is continuing despite the general increase in overall car ownership within the UK.</p>	Demand for pitch use and localised pitch provision will need to be appropriately considered in the context of individual Community Areas to account for the higher proportion of non car users within Knowsley which may reduce the ability of residents to access the facilities Borough-wide.

²¹ 2001 Census (ONS, 2003)

²² Vehicle Licensing Statistics (Department for Transport, 2011)

Demographic	Knowsley Profile	Potential Implications for Playing Pitch Provision
Ethnicity	Knowsley has a comparatively small Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) population, with around 2% of the overall population falling into this category. This is significantly below the average national rate of around 10%. ²³	By national standards, Knowsley is not very multicultural. Despite this, there is a need to ensure facilities remain accessible to all sectors of the community as well as reflecting the specific sport demands of various ethnic groups.

²³

Resident Population Estimates by Ethnic Group (ONS, 2009)

Participation Trends

- 1.29. Key national statistics, trends, issues and implications for future demand for playing pitches are influenced by both localised preference for types of sport, together with overall trends relating to sports participation.
- 1.30. With regard to the above, Table 1.4 below provides a summary of relevant national trends for pitch sports, derived from Sport England Primary Offer Information Packs (2009). However it should be acknowledged that trends vary across the country. As a result, consultation will be undertaken with regional representatives of national governing bodies to account for local circumstances.

Table 1.4: National Trends in Pitch Sports

Sport	Key Facts	Key Trends	Implications for pitches and facilities
Cricket	<p>Overall adult participation rate of 0.9% representing a substantial short term increase (50%), however a decline to 0.5% is predicted by 2013, equivalent to a decline of 43%.</p> <p>Seasonal variations in participation – Summer highest.</p> <p>247 000 people state that cricket is the one sport they would like to play more often.</p>	<p>A greater number of people are playing or would like to play in a short term trend, but this may be reversed in future.</p>	<p>Increased pressure on pitch availability at current levels, and suggested requirement for additional better quality facilities to meet latent demand. Need to consider long term trends given increased participation linked to National Team success.</p> <p>Existing facilities may be capable of being used by other sports in Winter / Spring when demand is lower.</p>
	<p>28% of cricketers are aged 16-19.</p> <p>Participation rates decline by a third between the ages of 11 to 15, and by a total of 70% between the ages of 16 - 30.</p>	<p>A greater number and proportion of young people playing the game.</p>	<p>Increases the need for more pitches for certain forms of the game (i.e. Kwik cricket), together with extra pitches in schools.</p>
	<p>Female participation has risen from 0.14% to 0.19%, a rise of 0.05 percent or 13 000 additional female participants.</p>	<p>A rising number of women playing the game.</p>	<p>Suggests a need for more quality training pitches and better facilities, such as dedicated changing.</p>

Football	<p>Outdoor football participation increased to 5.42%, and is predicted to rise to 6.3% by 2013.</p> <p>1.46 million people state that football is the one sport they would like to play more often.</p> <p>North West England has the 2nd highest participation rate of any region at 7.7%.</p>	<p>A greater number of people are playing or would like to play.</p>	<p>Suggests the possible need to safeguard existing provision and consider need for additional and / or better quality facilities to meet latent demand.</p>
	<p>1.47 million young people aged 11-15 participating in football regularly²⁴.</p> <p>Participation drop-off rates of 30% between ages 16 and 18, a 72% decrease between ages 16 and 30, rising to 85% by age 40.</p>	<p>A greater number and proportion of children and young people are playing.</p>	<p>Suggests need for a focus on requirement for additional provision to meet mini soccer and junior pitches, together with an emphasis on improving the quality of facilities for adult football.</p>
	<p>Female participation has risen from 0.8% to 1%, a rise of 0.2 percent, or 21%.</p>	<p>A rising number of women are playing the game.</p>	<p>Suggests requirement for better quality of facilities, including dedicated changing facilities.</p>
Hockey	<p>Overall adult participation rate of 0.3%, which is predicted to remain stable up to 2013.</p> <p>100 000 adults would like to play hockey or play more often.</p> <p>Regional influence – equal lowest participation rate is in North West.</p>	<p>The number of people playing is fairly static, but there is evidence of latent demand, although this may be lower in Knowsley's local region.</p>	<p>Suggests the possible need to safeguard the scale of existing provision if adequate to meet existing needs and consider the ability to expand existing capacity to meet latent demand.</p>

	<p>95 000 of young people aged 11-15 participate in hockey regularly⁷</p> <p>43% of adult hockey players are under the age of 19.</p> <p>Participation drop-off rates of 70% between ages 16 and 22.</p>	<p>A greater number and proportion of children and young adults are playing.</p>	<p>Suggests the possible need to safeguard existing provision and considered requirement for additional provision, together with an emphasis upon improving the quality and capacity of facilities.</p>
	<p>There is a fairly equal gender balance, with slightly more men playing hockey than women</p>	<p>Hockey is an equally attractive sport to both genders.</p>	<p>Suggests requirement for better quality facilities, including segregated changing facilities.</p>
Rugby League	<p>Overall adult participation rate of 0.3%, which is predicted to increase to 0.4% by 2013.</p> <p>Regional influence – 21% of total participation is within the North West.</p> <p>102,000 people state that rugby league is the one sport they would like to do more often.</p>	<p>A greater number of people are playing or would like to play, particularly in Knowsley's local region.</p>	<p>Suggests the possible need to safeguard existing provision and consider need for additional and / or better quality facilities to meet latent demand</p>
	<p>115,000 (3.6%) young people aged 11-15 are participate in rugby league regularly²⁵. 53% of all rugby league players are 16-19.</p> <p>Participation drop-off rates of 76% between ages 16 and 22.</p>	<p>A greater number and proportion of children and young adults are playing.</p>	<p>Suggests the possible need to safeguard existing provision and consider requirement for additional provision, together with an emphasis upon improving the quality and capacity of facilities.</p>

²⁵

Taking Part Young People's Survey, 11-15 year olds (DCMS / Ipsos MORI, 2008)

	Male participation rates are ten times higher than female participation rates.	A greater number of boys and men play the game.	Suggests a lesser demand for segregated changing areas than other sports.
Rugby Union	Overall participation rate of 0.6%, which is predicted to grow by 0.1% up to 2013. Regional influence - lowest within the North West at 9% of total. 179 000 adults would like to play rugby union more often. Seasonal influence – participation decreases in Summer.	A greater number of people are playing or would like to play, but this is slightly less likely within Knowsley's region.	Suggests the possible need to safeguard any existing provision and consider need for additional and / or better quality facilities to meet latent demand, although this may be lower in the local area. Existing facilities may be capable of being used by other sports in Summer when demand is lower.
	151 000 (4.7%) young people aged 11-15 are participating in rugby union regularly ²⁶ 42% rugby union participants are aged 16-19 compared to 12% all sports participants. Participation drop-off rates of 21% between ages 16 and 18, a 76% decrease between ages 16 and 22, rising to 90% by age 40.	A greater number and proportion of children and young adults are playing.	Suggests the possible need to safeguard existing provision and considered requirement for additional provision, together with an emphasis upon improving the quality and capacity of facilities.
	Male participation rates are ten times higher than female participation rates.	A greater number of boys and men play the game.	Suggests a lesser demand for segregated changing areas than other sports.

Active People Surveys

- 1.31. The Active People Survey (APS) was carried out by Ipsos MORI on behalf of Sport England. In total 363 724 people were interviewed (a minimum of 1 000 in each local authority area) by telephone across England between the period mid October 2005 to mid October 2006.
- 1.32. The primary objective of the APS was to measure levels of participation in sports and active recreation and its contribution to improving the health of the country. The data collected identifies how participation varies at Local Authority level and for different population groups. The survey also measures the proportion of the adult population that volunteer in sport on a weekly basis, club membership, involvement in organised sport/competition, receipt of tuition or coaching, and overall satisfaction with levels of sporting provision in the local community.
- 1.33. Additional APSs have subsequently been undertaken in 2007/08 (APS 2), 2008/09 (APS3), 2009/10 (APS4) with around 500 interviews being completed per local authority in each year. The calculation methodology for 2010/11 (APS5) has been amended for some of the key indicators and the results are currently incomplete, therefore the data has been excluded for the purposes of accurate trend analysis. An overview of the results for Knowsley from Active People Survey 4 (APS4) is shown within Table 1.5 on the following page, together with comparison against the regional and national findings, and those for previous years.
- 1.34. When considering levels of volunteering to support sport, Knowsley is above the average levels in the Liverpool City Region, North West and England. However remaining indicators which relate to sports participation are lower than North West and England averages, and all indicators, except tuition rates, demonstrate a localised decrease since APS1.
- 1.35. Knowsley also has the lowest rate within the Liverpool City Region for adult participation (significant gap of 2.1% to average), sports club membership (substantial gap of 5.9% to average) and participation in organised competition (significant gap of 2.6% to average).
- 1.36. Satisfaction levels in Knowsley in APS4 were 66.4%, identifying the area as the lowest performing within the Liverpool City Region (significant gap of 2.5% to average). This suggests that despite recent investment, issues remain relating to quality of provision.
- 1.37. In the context of the above, it should be noted that the statistical significance of such changes are not robust given the limited sample size at Local Authority level, emphasised by the variation from year to year. In the case of KPI1, KPI2, KPI4, KPI5 and KPI6, variations exceed the range between APS1 and APS4 values, therefore analysis into demographics such as age, gender, socio-economic classification is not suitably reliable at a localised scale.

Table 1.5: Active People Survey Overview ²⁷

Key Performance Indicator	Knowsley (APS1)	Knowsley (APS2)	Knowsley (APS3)	Knowsley (APS4)	Local Trend (APS1-APS4)	LCR Average (APS4)	North West Average (APS4)	England Average (APS4)	National Trend (APS1 – APS4)
KPI1: Adult participation in 30 minutes, moderate intensity sport	19.6%	19%	19.4%	19%	Decrease	21.7%	22.4%	21.8%	Increase
KPI2: Volunteering for at least one hour a week	2.7%	4.3%	2.4%	5%	Increase	4.8%	4.8%	4.5%	Decrease
KPI3: Member of a sports club	22.3%	20.2%	22.2%	16.5%	Decrease	22.4%	23.6%	23.9%	Decrease
KPI4: Received tuition from an instructor or coach in the last 12 months	13.7%	11.5%	13.7%	14.2%	Increase	15.7%	15.9%	17.5%	Decrease
KPI5: Taken part in any organised competition in the last 12 months	11.2%	9.2%	9.6%	10.5%	Decrease	13.1%	14.5%	14.4%	Decrease
KPI6: Satisfaction with sports provision in local area	67.2%	65.8%	69.2%	66.4%	Decrease	69.9%	68.9%	69%	Decrease
Organised sport participation (at least one of KPI3 – KPI6)	32%	29.2%	31.4%	27.7%	Decrease	33.8%	35.3%	36.3%	Not included in APS1

²⁷ Source: Sport England Active People Surveys (Ipsos Mori, 2005-2010)

National Strategic Documents

- 1.38. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states that; *“Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. The assessments should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision is required.”*
- 1.39. In the context of the above, it should be noted that the NPPF prioritises the following issues of relevance to outdoor sports provision;
- Access to good quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation.
 - A requirement to identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area.
 - A requirement to set locally derived standards for the provision of open space, sports and recreational facilities based on a needs assessment.
 - A presumption against the development of existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, unless an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements, or the need for and benefits of the development clearly outweigh the loss.
 - The establishment of a Local Green Space designation through local or neighbourhood plans, affording greater protective status to the land from development.
- 1.40. Although the NPPF has superseded PPG17, its practice guide remains relevant at the present time and identifies four 'guiding principles' which the Playing Pitch Assessment should utilise, summarised as follows;
- Local needs are likely to vary considerably from one place to another, even within a single local authority area, according to the different socio-demographic and cultural characteristics of local communities and the number and type of visitors.
 - The delivery of a network of high quality, sustainable open spaces and sport and recreation facilities depends not only on good planning, but also multi-disciplinary working across different departments and, in some cases, with neighbouring councils, regional and national agencies.
 - In many areas, delivering objectives will depend much more on improving and enhancing the accessibility and quality of existing provision than on new provision. At the same time, where additional open spaces or sport and recreation facilities are required, they should enhance the network.
 - The value of open spaces or sport and recreation facilities, irrespective of who owns them, depends primarily on two things: the extent to which they meet clearly identified local needs and the wider benefits

they generate for people, wildlife, biodiversity and the wider environment.

- 1.41. The previous Government published a consultation document – *Planning for a Natural and Healthy Environment*²⁸ in March 2010, which was intended to update, simplify and amalgamate the guidance within PPG17 with other national policies such as PPS7²⁹, PPS9³⁰ and PPG20³¹. However following the election of the Coalition Government in May 2010, this document has not been progressed. As an alternative to the above, the Coalition Government has instead published the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which has consolidated the previous guidance into a single document.
- 1.42. The Playing Pitch Assessment and Strategy will need to formulate the proposed strategy to accord with national priorities.

Local Strategic Documents

- 1.43. In order to be clear about the level and nature of playing pitch provision required at local level and the potential influences on future demand, the following local documents were reviewed as part of this study. The study recommendations reflect this context to ensure that future provision meets local need and contributes to identified priorities, but also reflective of national objectives for sport and physical activity.

Knowsley Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2023

- 1.44. The Knowsley Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) brought together Knowsley Council, public services and private, voluntary and community organisations to develop Knowsley's Sustainable Community Strategy³² (SCS) with the aim to make Knowsley the 'borough of choice'. Success will be measured by the Borough having a sustainable and diverse population, living in successful suburban townships that provide a sense of place and community. Knowsley will have:
- attractive, sustainable neighbourhoods with a wide choice of housing and excellent community facilities;
 - vibrant and welcoming town centres; residents and local communities who are able to make positive lifestyle choices;
 - high quality employment areas which help to drive economic growth in the Liverpool City Region, and;
 - narrowed the gap in deprivation levels, both between different parts of the borough and between Knowsley and elsewhere.

²⁸ Planning for a Natural and Healthy Environment (DCLG, 2010)

²⁹ Planning Policy Statement 7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas (ODPM, 2004)

³⁰ Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservations (ODPM, 2005)

³¹ Planning Policy Guidance 20: Coastal Planning (DoE, 1992)

³² Knowsley Sustainable Community Strategy 2008 – 2023 (Knowsley MBC, 2008)

- 1.45. The SCS has a specific target to meet national averages, resulting in a requirement for approximately 7 900 more adults participating in sport in 2023, an aspiration to which the Playing Pitch Assessment and Strategy will be intended to positively contribute.

Knowsley Corporate Plan

- 1.46. In continuing to address the objectives of the Sustainable Community Strategy, Knowsley has identified a number of outcomes in the Knowsley Corporate Plan³³ with an emphasis upon improving people's lives through addressing local needs, translated into the following four key objectives;
- Every Child Matters,
 - Healthy, Independent
 - Prosperous Knowsley
 - Safer and Stronger
- 1.47. To achieve the above cross cutting thematic objectives, the Council is seeking to:
- raise attainment and skills;
 - unlock potential and raise aspirations;
 - provide a well connected Knowsley;
 - maintain a diverse and prosperous economy;
 - provide safer and more cohesive communities;
 - improve the offer and quality of place, and;
 - increase economic activity at all levels.
- 1.48. With regard to the above, it is considered that playing pitches can play an important role in helping the Council deliver some of its corporate objectives by providing good quality accessible spaces for local residents which offer opportunities for participation in activities which have a positive effect upon their health and wellbeing.

Knowsley Sports & Physical Activity Alliance Vision 2007 – 2011

- 1.49. Alongside the preparation of the Knowsley Sustainable Community Strategy, the Knowsley SPAA Strategy for Sport and Physical Activity³⁴ was produced in response to the needs of the local community. This provided a translation of the overarching aims to sporting context to develop a sustainable long term vision underpinned by a clear set of objectives and aims. The 6 core objectives and associated target groups are set out in Table 1.6;

³³ Knowsley Corporate Plan 2010-2011 (Knowsley MBC 2010)

³⁴ Knowsley Sports & Physical Activity Alliance Vision 2007 – 2011 (Knowsley SPAA, 2007)

Table 1.6: Knowsley SPAA Strategy Objectives & Target Groups

Objective	Aim	Targets Relevant to the PPA
Health	Using sport and physical activity to improve physical and mental health and well being and to encourage a healthier lifestyle for Knowsley people and families.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase participation in physical activity and sport (3 x 30 minutes a week) - Increase the number of opportunities for families to participate ('family friendly' activities) - Improve the health of Knowsley's workforce - Increase the range of sporting, physical activity and recreation activities available for older people - Reduce levels of obesity in Knowsley
Active Communities	Using sport and physical activity to develop safer and stronger communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure that communities have the opportunity to shape the sports and physical activity provided in their neighbourhoods and communities - Increase the level of sports and physical activity being provided by the community and voluntary sectors - Create opportunities for volunteering - Create opportunities for people to develop as leaders for sports and physical activity within their communities - Develop a range of programmes focused on the use of sport for the achievement of wider social benefits
Education and Lifelong Learning	Using sport and physical activity to promote education and lifelong learning, develop skills and contribute to delivering the 5 outcomes of Every Child Matters (ECM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maximise the use of sports and physical activity to deliver across the ECM priorities - Ensure that young people achieve 2 hours high quality PE and Sport (+ 2 hours outside of the curriculum) - Increase levels of volunteering and develop volunteering and leadership skills to build capacity within the voluntary and community sector - Increase the delivery of sports and physical activity within the Early Years setting

Widening Access	Sport and physical activity for all members of the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop a strategic approach to the provision of a range of facilities offering sport and physical activities, building and developing a hub and spoke model incorporating BSF Learning Centres, Leisure Centres and parks and open spaces - Maximise the use and potential of existing physical resources and infrastructure for sports and physical activity resources - Improve access for local people to existing facilities - Ensure sports and physical activity locations are welcoming, clean, safe and achieve quality award status (Quest, Charter Mark, etc)
Regeneration and Economy	Using sport and physical activity as a vehicle support more people in to employment, raising skills and aspirations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase skills of the Knowsley population using sport as an opportunity to engage and develop confidence. - Explore regeneration opportunities through the Olympic legacy. - Develop/attract and promote high profile sporting events
Pathways and Progression	Maximising opportunities for ongoing participation and achieving sporting success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop strong relationships with key partners and stakeholders (including NGB's) - Develop and promote pathways and progression from local through to regional programmes (including through partnerships with NGB's and Clubs) - Develop high quality fully accessible sporting venues - Develop quality clubs

1.50. The Playing Pitch Assessment and Strategy will need to consider the extent to which recommendations could contribute to the addressing the core objectives and targets.

Knowsley Emerging Local Plan

1.51. The Strategic Policies will be in a Core Strategy forming part of the Knowsley Local Plan. Once adopted, the document will partially replace the existing Knowsley Replacement Unitary Development Plan (adopted 2006), to provide an up-to-date vision, objectives and strategic approach to future land use, environmental, economic and social planning for Knowsley's development requirements up to 2028.

- 1.52. The Preferred Options document was subject to public consultation between June and September 2011, with the subsequent Proposed Submission version anticipated to be completed and published for further consultation during 2012.
- 1.53. The key policy area for the purposes of the Playing Pitch Assessment and Strategy is CS21, as it proposes to modify existing Community Area standards for outdoor sports provision to better reflect the number of pitches and facilities available, rather than just a generic land area measure.

The Knowsley Green Space Strategy 2010 - 2014

- 1.54. Knowsley's Green Space Strategy sets out the Council's vision and aims for all open access green space within the Borough, supported by an action plan and the resources needed for delivery. The document links to a previous Knowsley Open Space, Recreation & Sport Needs Assessment and Strategy undertaken in 2005, but defers some of the considerations of priorities for future investment in outdoor sports provision to the outcomes of this study. Nevertheless specific issues with regard to outdoor sports provision that were identified include:
- The need to understand the association of sports provision to existing public open spaces to ensure the uses complement each other.
 - Consideration of a requirement to address localised deficiencies to provide an equitable provision of sports facilities across Knowsley.
 - The significant variation in quality of existing pitch sites and the consequent need to improve the experience and carrying capacity of existing playing pitches, particularly by enhancing ancillary facilities and pitch quality.
 - The formulation of community access and dual use arrangements at schools sites to maximise their contribution in providing additional supply to meet demand requirements.
- 1.55. The above issues will require consideration in terms of the analysis of the data collected and the subsequent formulation of the strategy.

Building Schools for the Future / Primary Future Schooling programmes

- 1.56. The Building Schools for the Future (BSF) within Knowsley has provided seven new learning centres, which are;
- Christ the King Catholic and Church of England Centre for Learning
 - Halewood Centre for Learning
 - Kirkby Sports College
 - Huyton Arts & Sports Centre for Learning
 - Knowsley Park Centre for Learning - serving Prescot, Whiston and the wider community
 - All Saints Catholic Centre for Learning
 - St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic Centre for Learning

- 1.57. The seven new learning centres replaced 11 previous secondary schools (although re-using a number of the sites), and are different from the previous schools in that they offer;
- Centres for lifelong learning, community use and a point of information about council services.
 - Availability for wider community use for sport, cultural and leisure activities;
 - Longer opening hours which are often until 10pm, at weekends and during school holidays
 - A learn anywhere, anytime philosophy
- 1.58. Following on from Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme Knowsley was selected as a regional pilot for the Primary Future Schooling programme focused on delivering five new primary schools within the Borough and a new special school. The new primary schools that have recently opened are listed below;
- Hope Primary School - replaces the previous St Dominic's RC Infant and Junior schools, in a new location adjacent to Christ the King Centre for Learning in North Huyton.
 - Park Brow Community Primary School - replaces the previous Park Brow School (comprised two sites) and provides additional nursery provision in Kirkby.
 - Northwood Primary School - replaced Overdale and Simonswood Primary Schools, and incorporated the specialist services of the Northern Primary Support Centre, in a new location adjacent to All Saints Centre for Learning in Kirkby.
 - Stockbridge Village Primary School – replaces Nine Tree Community Primary School and Brookside Community Primary School, in a new location within the district centre, incorporating education provision as well as a Children's Centre, family room, a suite of health consulting and treatment rooms and a library in Stockbridge Village.
 - Yew Tree Primary School – replaces Greengates Community Primary School and incorporates specialist services of the Southern Primary Support Centre, in a new location adjacent to Halewood Centre for Learning.
- 1.59. In addition to the above, Knowsley has also secured funding to develop a new dedicated facility for profound and severe complex needs which will be located on the site of Kirkby Sports College Centre for Learning. Knowsley has been working with both schools to develop a state of the art learning environment, a new curriculum, ICT provision and extended and integrated services provision. The new school is due to open in late 2012.
- 1.60. The rationalisation process of the education portfolio has led to surplus sites currently existing. Current policy standards mean that where sites are suitable in terms of size, location and character, they should be considered to make good deficits in other types of public open space, before being considered in terms of potential release to address other development needs within Knowsley.

Existing Local Standards and Policy

- 1.61. To comply with the requirements of PPG17 (now superseded by the NPPF), adopted local standards for open spaces were introduced via the Knowsley Replacement Unitary Development Plan (UDP) in 2006. The standards were informed by the previous Playing Pitch Assessment and Strategy (2003) and Open Space, Sport and Recreation Needs Assessment and Strategy (2005) and related to the following;
 - Quantity standards; minimum amount of green space of different types);
 - Quality standards; level of quality that green spaces of different types should attain, and;
 - Accessibility; how far residents have to travel to reach different types of green space.
- 1.62. The local standards for outdoor sports facilities are outlined in within Appendix B, as per Policy OS4 of the UDP and the Greenspace Standards and New Development SPD (2007).
- 1.63. The existing quantitative standard is 1.85 ha per 1 000 population, which when applied proportionally to the local population within Community Areas roughly reflect the current provision within Knowsley overall. However the standard covers all forms of outdoor sports provision and includes a large proportion (approximately 50%, excluding golf courses), which are either school playing fields or are not in public usage.
- 1.64. The Greenspace Standards and New Development SPD also provides guidance on the use of planning obligations to secure both on-site and off-site green space (including outdoor sports provision) as part of development proposals. It is anticipated that the document may need to be adapted as a consequence of the outcomes of the Playing Pitch Assessment and Strategy and due to imminent restrictions on tariff based contributions associated to Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) regulations.
- 1.65. With regard to the above, it is clear that at present a local standard based on land area alone is difficult to translate or easily compare to the actual provision of available pitches and facilities. As a consequence it is intended that the Playing Pitch Assessment and Strategy will provide appropriate recommendations for the modification of current policy to better reflect efficiencies of land use, together with actual provision in terms of meeting identified demands (both current and future).

Section 2:

Methodology

Methodology

- 2.1. 'Towards a Level Playing Field' provides clear guidance on the assessment of supply and demand for sports pitches, together with the types and levels of analysis which need to be carried out in order for the local authority to plan effectively to meet local needs. This includes:
- The Playing Pitch Model (PPM).
 - Team Generation Rates (TGRs).
 - Local standards for provision.

Playing Pitch Model (PPM)

- 2.2. The PPM was introduced by Sport England in October 2003 having been developed to work alongside the 'Towards a Level Playing Field'³⁵ document. The model was designed to provide a consistent approach to the strategic planning of outdoor sports provision, through an objective analysis of supply and demand whilst allowing for varied local circumstances relating to quantity, quality and access for individual sports.
- 2.3. There are three main ways in which the model is used:
- To identify the current situation utilising data relating to existing teams and pitches.
 - To assist the assessment of the adequacy of current provision by providing the ability to adapt localised variables through scenario testing.
 - To enable forecasting of future requirements through incorporating planned pitches and projections relating to population and demographic change.
- 2.4. The PPM is an eight-stage process for collecting data and producing a systematic analysis. This approach is essential to provide a robust basis for the Playing Pitch Assessment and Strategy, with the individual stages as follows;
- Stage 1: Team identification
 - Stage 2: Calculating home games per team per week.
 - Stage 3: Assessing total home games per week.
 - Stage 4: Establishing temporal demand for games.
 - Stage 5: Defining pitches used / required on each day.
 - Stage 6: Establishing pitches available.
 - Stage 7: Assessing the findings.
 - Stage 8: Identifying policy options and solutions.
- 2.5. A step-by-step guide to each stage of the PPM follows in Table 2.1, illustrating the process and the extent of information required, applied to each pitch sport and varying geographical areas (Knowsley-wide, plus four Community Areas).

³⁵ Towards a Level Playing Field: A guide to the production of playing pitch strategies (Sport England / CCPR, 2003)

Table 2.1: PPM Model Methodological Summary

Stage	Process and Information Required
1	<p>Team Identification</p> <p>Initial identification of team demand to model the existing situation and to assist the assessment of the adequacy of current provision and predictions of the future situation.</p> <p>Required data includes;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - numbers of adult, junior and mini teams (and team equivalents) for each sport with additional age grouping and male / female split; - number of teams (and team equivalents) which reside in Knowsley, but play home games elsewhere; - consideration of number of teams/team equivalents playing in the study area but with some or all players living outside; - assessment of latent demand using Team Generation Rates (TGR) - forecast changes to population (including those expected through new development); - prediction of future number of teams/team equivalents, based on existing and predicted TGRs, and; - numerical targets for sports development.
2	<p>Calculating home games per team per week</p> <p>This stage involves the calculation of the total number of home games played by each team per week in the study area.</p> <p>This variable is calculated in two stages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - total number of home games played in a season by all teams/team equivalents, divided by number of weeks in a season = average number of home games per week (i.e. home games played in a season / number of weeks = games per week), and; - average number of home games per week divided by total number of teams/team equivalents = average number of home games per team per week (i.e. games per week / number of teams = games per team per week) <p>Required data includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - number of home games played in a season by each team / team equivalent (including school use and training sessions on a similar basis to that used for team equivalents); - number of weeks of the playing season; - number of teams; - pitches used for home matches if different from a team's main 'home pitch'; - breakdown of home games played (league, cup, friendly); - factors which may be constraining the number of home matches (e.g. poor pitch capacity, booking policies); - predicted changes in the number and type of matches played, for example; potential for more midweek play on floodlit grass pitches, further competitive structures and shifts in participation trends.

	<p>In a 'normal' situation for all sports, the number of home games is calculated as 0.5 of the total number of teams, representing weekly 'home' and 'away' fixtures. However this standard is applied carefully to ensure that problems arising from factors such as cancellations and postponements are taken into account.</p>
3	<p>Assessing total home games per week</p> <p>This stage involves multiplying Stage 1 by Stage 2 which results in the total home games played each week in the study area and therefore is not an independent variable.</p> <p>The information may already be known from Stage 2 if a club survey identifying matches has been carried out. The figure is important as it indicates how many games have to be accommodated in the study area in an average week.</p>
4	<p>Establishing temporal demand for games</p> <p>This stage determines the proportion of home games played on each day of the week. The temporal demand for games is the proportion of matches that are played each day. This must be assessed on a local basis since different areas of the country can show marked variations.</p> <p>Temporal demand is required to show:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - time of peak demand - use of pitch throughout the week to assist in calculations of capacity. <p>Required data includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - percentage of matches played each day on each type of pitch (e.g. adult, junior or mini pitches); - factors which may be influencing the current pattern of play (e.g. league structure, kick-off times, etc); - whether the observed existing pattern of play accurately reflects the real wishes of participants; - predicted changes in the pattern of play/temporal demand, similar to those for latent demand, for example; potential for more midweek play, future league and cup competitions, shifts in participation trends, etc.
5	<p>Defining pitches used/required on each day</p> <p>This stage involves multiplying Stage 3 by Stage 4, which results in the number of pitches currently used at each time and on each day and therefore is not an independent variable.</p>
6	<p>Establishing pitches available</p> <p>This stage comprises an audit of playing pitches within the borough and whether they are available for public use.</p>

	<p>Required data includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - numbers and types of grass and artificial pitches currently in use; - potential for transferring pitches from one type of use to another, either on a temporary or permanent basis (e.g . football to rugby, adult pitches to junior or mini-soccer pitches, etc); - availability and accessibility of existing pitches, and; - pitch quality and capacity; <p>In addition to the above, further data is required to predict the future situation. This data can comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - potential for improvements to existing pitch quality and capacity (including ancillary provision); - flexibility of programming of matches / pitch use; - site preferences of users that can established an understanding of the hierarchy of provision; - changes in governing body rules to allow use of artificial surfaces, and; - extent of land available for development as new pitches.
7	<p>Assessing the findings</p> <p>This compares the number of pitches required on each day (Stage 5) with the number of pitches available (Stage 6). This will reveal whether there are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - spare or underused pitches, - excess demand, or; - if supply matches demand.
8	<p>Identifying policy options and solutions</p> <p>The eighth and final stage of the process deals with policy options and solutions based upon the information derived from the seven stages outlined above.</p>

Adapted from *Toward a Level Playing Field* – Sport England and CCPR (Pages 11-17)

Team Generation Rates (TGRs) and Influences upon Future Demand

- 2.6. Team Generation Rates (TGRs) provide an indication of how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team based on current population breakdowns and participation rates. TGRs are calculated for each pitch sport and each age group.
- 2.7. TGRs can be used with the Playing Pitch Model (PPM) for forecasting purposes, for example by using population projections to estimate future TGRs. Once TGRs are entered into the PPM model, it is possible to predict whether current supply would meet future demand. In addition, this data can also be used to estimate potential latent demand across the pitch sports in Knowsley by comparing current TGRs to those in other local authorities and determining where comparative deficiencies can be used to adapt aspirational TGRs applied as a future scenario.

- 2.8. However forecasting changes to demand is not a simple process and requires consideration of variables alongside TGRs, particularly relating to changes to population and the likely influence of local plan approaches or sport development initiatives to increase participation / club membership. Nevertheless obtaining a realistic estimate of future demand is critical to assess the suitability of current and planned provision to meet any potential growth or other changes to participation rates relative to specific sports.
- 2.9. The Office of National Statistics (ONS) mid-year estimates (2009) provide the current population figures used to calculate Team Generation Rates. For population growth figures, the latest estimates available from the ONS based on 2008-based sub national population projections have been used. Assumptions have been made that growth within individual age groups for Knowsley will follow the same trend as sub national population projections.

Local Standards for Provision

- 2.10. Knowsley's most recent Playing Pitch Assessment undertaken in 2003 utilised the methodology within the 'Playing Pitch Strategy'³⁶ document, which used the National Playing Field Association's (NPFA) 'Six Acre Standard' to define local minimum standards for provision of outdoor sports facilities. This methodology has subsequently been superseded by the current methodology and associated policy preferences, but will be considered to provide context against local standards later in the report.
- 2.11. In order that this Playing Pitch Assessment and Strategy sits within the wider context of open spaces and NPPF requirements, this report will review the suitability of existing locally derived standards. In doing so, the data collection and analysis will inform consideration of the ongoing suitability of a single Knowsley standard based on land area requirements (as existing), as opposed to the alternative of local variations based upon existing provision in Community Areas, plus additional provision to address unmet demand and forecast future needs. This is noting that the Government believes that open space standards are best set locally and national standards cannot cater for local circumstances, such as differing demographic profiles and the extent of built development in an area.

Assessment of Supply and Consultation

- 2.12. The Council's Policy, Impact and Intelligence (Planning) team have been responsible for the data collation and analysis elements of the study, supported by an internal steering group from Leisure, Asset Management, Neighbourhood Services, Planning (Development Control) and Education

³⁶ Playing Pitch Strategy (Sports Council, CCPR & NPFA, 1991)

departments which are also responsible for formulating the resultant strategy.

- 2.13. To compile the audit of the current supply of pitches and the number of teams within the Knowsley, a number of data sources were utilised including Active Places Power (APP), pitch booking records, league handbooks, sport / governing body databases and publications (e.g. local area data reports), sports development plans and aerial photography.
- 2.14. In order to obtain and verify information relating to the quality of playing pitch sites such as changes in participation levels and other issues affecting playing pitch users, additional consultation was also undertaken as identified within Table 2.2.

Table 2.2: Consultation Undertaken

Consultee	Method of Consultation
Local Authority Officers	Stakeholder Meetings and Face to Face Interviews
Cricket, Football, Hockey, Rugby League and Rugby Union clubs	Face to Face Interviews, Questionnaires and Telephone Interviews
Primary and Secondary Schools	Face to Face Interviews and Questionnaires
Pitch Providers	Questionnaires and Telephone Interviews
League and County Association Representatives	E-mailed Questions and Telephone Interviews
Regional Governing Body Officers	E-mailed Questions and Telephone Interviews

- 2.15. Sample copies of the different questionnaires distributed are included within Appendix C and the issues identified are summarised within Sections 3 and 5.
- 2.16. The response rate from the consultation with sports clubs, schools and community use pitch providers (both local authority and commercial or town / parish councils) is set out in Table 2.3 below.

Table 2.3: Consultation Response Rate

User Group	Number Contacted	Number Responded	Response Rate
Sports Clubs	162	58	36%
Schools	63	41	65%
Local Authority Pitch Providers	6	4	67%
Other Pitch Providers	9	7	67%
Total	240	110	46%

- 2.17. Although a higher response rate would have been desirable, the above response rate of 45% was achieved through the receipt of completed

questionnaire and subsequent follow up telephone calls where an initial response was not received.

- 2.18. With regard to the above, it should be noted that the survey of sports clubs, included only a total of 65 individual clubs identified as currently within Knowsley. The remainder were included to provide information on cross boundary issues and assess latent demand from clubs registered within 3km of the Knowsley, which can be influenced through movement of players and teams. This is noting the overlapping nature of existing leagues with surrounding areas of Halton, Liverpool, St. Helens and Sefton.
- 2.19. The overall response rate for Knowsley sports clubs was 60% (39 responses of 65 surveyed), which was much higher than non-Knowsley sports clubs at 20% (19 responses of 97 surveyed).
- 2.20. The number of responses is considered sufficient for the purpose of the study to supplement and verify the information obtained through research to accurately factor the number of homes games per week in addition to the capacity of each playing pitch. The responses also help to inform the key issues affecting clubs, teams and schools within Knowsley, which may not be immediately apparent from supply and demand information.

Pitch Quality Information

- 2.21. In addition to the supply and demand analysis, a Pitch Quality Assessment (PQA) was carried out on all the pitches within Knowsley. All site assessments relating to pitches available for community use and associated facilities (e.g. changing provision) were completed by a Council officer in accordance with the Sport England 'non-technical pitch assessment sheet'. A number of the sites were also reviewed with the Council's Leisure and Culture Development team to ensure a consistent scoring approach to the quality assessments of pitches within Knowsley.
- 2.22. The information collected via the PQA is weighted as a score, converted into a percentage (of the highest score possible) and also into a qualitative rating. The conversion for percentage score to qualitative ratings for pitches and changing facilities are set out within Tables 2.4 and 2.5 respectively.

Table 2.4: Key - Quality of Pitch

Percentage Score	Pitch Quality Rating
90+	Excellent
65 – 89	Good
55 – 64	Average
30 – 54	Below Average
0 - 29	Poor

Table 2.5: Key - Quality of Changing Facilities

Percentage Score	Facility Quality Rating
90+	Excellent
60 – 89	Good
40 – 59	Average
30 – 39	Poor
0 - 29	Very Poor

2.23. Specific criteria rated and weighted as part of the scoring mechanism include;

- grass cover and length;
- pitch size, including safety margins;
- slope;
- evenness;
- problem areas, including unofficial use, damage, etc;
- markings and equipment, and;
- presence of changing facilities.

2.24. The definition of a playing pitch considered in the context of the above is; *“a delineated area which, together with any run off area, is of 0.2 hectares or more, and which is used for association football, American football, rugby, cricket, hockey, lacrosse, rounders, baseball, softball, Australian football, Gaelic football, shinty, hurling, polo or cycle polo.”*³⁷ Golf courses, tennis courts and bowling greens are not included in the definition. Playing pitches may have a grass surface or an artificial one.

2.25. The types of pitches identified within the assessment and the individual dimensions are included within Table 2.6.

Table 2.6: Pitch Dimensions³⁸

Pitch Type	Age Group	Length		Width		Safety Margins
		Min	Max	Min	Max	
Cricket	U18	16.46m -19.2m x 3.05m for pitch		36.58m minimum from wicket to boundary		N/A
Cricket	18+	20.12m x 3.05m for pitch		45.72m from wicket to boundary	82.26m from wicket to boundary	N/A
Adult Football*	16+	90m	120m	44.5m	90m	1.83 minimum / 3m preferred

³⁷ Definition set out in Statutory Instrument 2010/2184.

³⁸ Source: *Comparative Sizes of Sports Pitches & Courts* (Sport England, 2009)

						Multiple pitches 3m minimum
Junior Football*	U11 – U16	68.25m	100.6m	42m	64m	1.83 minimum / 3m preferred Multiple pitches 3m minimum
Mini Football*	U9 – U10	45.75m	54.9m	27.45m	36.6m	2m minimum / 3m preferred
Mini Football*	U7 – U8	27.45m	45.75m	18.3m	27.45m	2m minimum / 3m preferred
Rugby Union*	Adult	N/A	144m (inc. 22m in goal)	N/A	70m	5m margin around
Rugby League*	Adult	100m (inc. 6m in-goals)	122m (inc. 11m in-goals)	55m	68m	2m minimum / 3m preferred
Hockey*	Adult	91.4m		55m		5m to ends. 4m to sides (3m playing surface)

* Length measured between dead ball lines, width measured from side line to side line. Safety margins are additional.

- 2.26. In terms of the pitch dimensions, it should be noted that there are also variations in minimum and maximums pitch sizes between age groups for junior football, as follows;
- Under 11s & Under 12s: 68.25m x 42m min, 82m x 50.77m max.
 - Under 13s & Under 14s: 72.8m x 45.5m min, 91 x 56m max.
 - Under 15s & Under 16s: 82.3 x 45.5m min, 100.6 x 64m max.
- 2.27. With regard to the above, it is noted that there is a degree of overlap between the maximum pitch sizes from under 13s upwards to the minimum pitch dimensions of adult football pitches. Therefore the additional capacity offered by any surplus adult football pitches (marked to minimum dimensions) in addressing any deficits relative to junior requirements for the under 13s, 14s, 15s and 16s age groups should be considered in the analysis and formulation of the strategy.
- 2.28. The pitch quality results obtained through the site surveys are collated and analysed within Section 3 and sample copies of the assessment sheets are available to view within Appendix D.

Pitch Capacity

- 2.29. The pitch quality information will be utilised to inform a calculation of the overall carrying capacity of pitches available for community use within Knowsley. This is noting that the PQA methodology incorporates consideration of pitch condition, number of cancellations, and impact of training / informal use to allow categorised weighting by pitch type. The carrying capacity of Knowsley's pitches is considered in more detail as part of the assessment of supply within Section 3.
- 2.30. Additional consideration will also need to be afforded to the presence of floodlighting, the role of synthetic pitch provision in offering alternative training provision, spectator areas and ownership / security of tenure of specific sites before formulating the strategy.

Quality / Value Matrix

- 2.31. To assist the formulation of priorities for future investment as part of the recommended strategy, it was considered that an additional level of analysis to reflect Knowsley's site specific circumstances was necessary to supplement the outcomes of the PPM and TGR forecasts.
- 2.32. With regard to the above, it was decided that a Quality / Value matrix provided a suitable mechanism that could be adapted to reflect equal weight to the present condition of sites (i.e. pitch quality and facilities) against their general value in the context of factors, such as:
- scale of provision (number of existing pitches);
 - proportion of pitches in use;
 - potential capacity for additional pitches;
 - whether multiple sports are capable of using the site (i.e. overlapping seasons);
 - presence of floodlighting;
 - current status of the area against existing outdoor sport provision standards, and;
 - whether the site has existing value for other greenspace uses.
- 2.33. The above criteria are appropriately weighted to reflect an assumption that large scale provision and high usage levels are of greatest importance in value terms, and pitch quality of greater importance than associated facilities. The overall total of 50 points attributed to the assessment for each site comprises 50% relating to quality and 50% relating to value.
- 2.34. Whilst it is accepted that the proportionate weighting of sub categories is a subjective measure, it is considered that the overall scoring mechanism and application of classifications of high, medium and low relating to both quality and value will provide an indication of the hierarchy of provision within Knowsley, together with the sites that are most urgently in need of investment to reach their potential.

2.35. The detailed Quality / Value matrix is available to view within Appendix N, with associated analysis and recommendations in Section 5.

Section 3:

Audit of Supply

Audit of Supply

Overview of Pitch Provision

- 3.1. A recent survey of playing pitches undertaken between September and November 2011 identified a total of 210 playing pitches (i.e. pitches suitable for Football, Cricket, Rugby League, Rugby Union or Hockey) on 87 individual sites within Knowsley. These include sites owned and managed by Knowsley Council, together with those managed by other private and public organisations, irrespective of public access. Table 3.1 summarises the overall distribution of playing pitch by sport and type. A list of pitch locations and ownership is available in Appendix E.

Table 3.1: All Playing Pitches within Knowsley by Sport / Type

Sport	LA / Parish Provision	School Provision	Commercial Provision	Total	Community Use (CU)
Cricket	1	4	2	7	100%
Adult Football	34	12	21	67	71%
Junior Football	25	46	9	80	61%
Mini Football	20	23	3	46	59%
Hockey	0	6*	2*	8*	100%
Rugby League	1	0	1	2	100%
Rugby Union	0	0	0	0	N/A
Total	81	91	38	210	68%
CU	81	50	12	143	
% CU	100%	55%	32%	68%	

* Denotes synthetic pitches

- 3.2. In addition to the above, there also remains extra dormant pitch supply within Knowsley in terms of an additional 19 football pitches (comprising 8x adult, 6x junior and 5x mini) which were formerly school playing fields associated to sites considered surplus as part of the Building School for the Future (BSF) / Primary Future Schooling (PFS) programmes and with no current public access or existing sporting use. Consequently these pitches are excluded from the assessment / analysis, but will be taken into account when considering recommendations and formulating the strategy.
- 3.3. Of the 210 total pitches, when considered irrespective of ownership, 84 (40%) are full-size adult football, cricket, rugby and hockey pitches within Knowsley, which equates to a single pitch for every 969 adults within the active age group (16-55). This is slightly better than the average of 1:1 015 for the Local Authorities within the Liverpool City Region, and marginally better than the national average of 1:989, as displayed in Table 3.2. However it remains significantly worse than Halton BC (1:677), which

aside from adjoining Knowsley, is defined as a comparable demographic area for benchmarking by ONS Nearest Neighbour / CIPFA classification.

Table 3.2: Comparison of Ratio of Adult Playing Pitches by Population

Local Authority	Ratio (Pitches: Adults)
Halton BC	1:677
West Lancashire DC	1:739
Sefton MBC	1:809
Knowsley MBC	1:969
St. Helens MBC	1:1 050
Liverpool City Council	1:1 340
Wirral MBC	1:1 390
LCR Average	1:1 015
National Average (England)	1:989

- 3.4. The overall ratio of playing pitch types relative to associated active age groups is displayed in Table 3.3 below and indicates significant variations between the existing supply for pitch sports within Knowsley which will need to be analysed further against respective demand through the PPM model and TGR calculations.

Table 3.3: Comparison of Knowsley Ratio of Playing Pitches by Individual Sport and Active Age Range of Population

Sport	Active Age Range (AAR)	Population within AAR	Ratio (All Pitches: AAR Population)	Ratio (Community Use Pitches: AAR Population)
Cricket	11 - 55	91 030	1:13 004	1:13 004
Adult Football	16 - 45	59 803	1:893	1:1 272
Junior Football	10 - 15	11 279	1:141	1:221
Mini Football	6 - 9	7 074	1:154	1:253
Hockey	11 - 45	69 225	1:8 653	1:8 653
Rugby League	8 - 45	74 726	1:37 363	1:37 363
Rugby Union	8 - 45	74 726	N/A	N/A

- 3.5. Although the overall number of pitches provides an overview of overall outdoor sports provision, Tables 3.1 and 3.4 include information on proportions of pitches available for community use as it is a more accurate reflection of current supply relative to demand. The Sport England definition³⁹ of 'secured community use' is as follows:
- all local authority facilities;
 - school facilities where subject to formal community use agreements;

³⁹ Adapted from Towards a Level Playing Field (Sport England / CCPR, 2003), pg. 43

- other institutional facilities that are available to the public as a result of formal community use agreements, and;
- any facilities that are owned, used or maintained by clubs/private individuals and which, as a matter of policy and practice, are available to large sections of the public through membership of a club or through an admission fee. Where there is a charge, it must be reasonable and affordable for the majority of the local community.

3.6. Community uses have been secured as part of the BSF / PFS programmes in accordance with the above criteria. The remaining pre-existing primary school sites and other private sites within Knowsley such as the Liverpool FC Academy and Everton FC Finch Farm do not have secured community usage which accord with the Sport England definition. Whilst for the purposes of the assessment these pitches will be excluded from the calculations, it should be noted that the surveys undertaken included an enquiry as to whether any of the schools with no current community use agreement would consider one in the future. The responses received in this regard, will be considered further when determining potential future supply recommendations in Sections 5 and 6.

3.7. Table 3.4 provides a breakdown of the number, type and distribution of pitches available for community use in the individual areas of Knowsley.

Table 3.4: Knowsley Playing Pitches – Available for Community Use

Sport	Community Area				Knowsley Total
	Kirkby	Huyton	Prescot, Whiston & Cronton	Halewood	
Cricket	0	3	3	1	7
Adult Football	15	14	11	7	47
Junior Football	7	22	14	8	51
Mini Football	5	9	6	8	28
Hockey	2*	2*	3*	1*	8
Rugby League	0	1	1	0	2
Rugby Union	0	0	0	0	0
Total	29	51	38	25	143

* Denotes synthetic pitches

3.8. In terms of playing pitches with secured community use at present, there are currently 143 pitches or 68% of the total provision, with a breakdown of 135 grass pitches and 8 full size synthetic pitches on 38 individual sites.

3.9. The information in Table 3.4 identifies that all areas comprise a majority of football pitches contributing towards a total of 88% of the overall supply

within Knowsley. However there are significant variations in the number and types of pitches in the different Community Areas, with anomalies such as the low proportion of junior / mini pitches in Kirkby requiring further investigation through the PPM model.

- 3.10. With regard to synthetic facilities, sand based pitches are considered suitable for hockey matches and football training, but they are rarely used in competitive match play for football or either code of rugby within Knowsley. The Football Association and Rugby Football League have however approved the use of third generation (3G) synthetic facilities for competitive matches. This is the most advanced synthetic turf pitch surface. Currently 2 of the 8 synthetic pitches within Knowsley are 3G and were delivered through the BSF programme at Halewood Centre for Learning and Huyton Arts and Sports Centre for Learning. In this regard, whilst all the synthetic pitches are included as provision for hockey, the multi functional nature of the 3G facilities also provides potential additional capacity for football use, particularly training provision. In this context, it should also be noted that all full size synthetic pitches provide additional capacity for small sided sports and informal recreation.
- 3.11. The information relating to community use can be translated into distribution of pitches relative to site size to provide an indication of the scale of provision within different Community Areas as per Table 3.5.

Table 3.5: Knowsley Playing Pitches Sites by Size and Facilities

Site Size by Pitches	Community Area								Knowsley Total	
	Kirkby		Huyton		Prescot, Whiston & Cronton		Halewood			
	S	CR	S	CR	S	CR	S	CR	S	CR
5+	2	2	5	4	3	3	2	2	12	11
2 – 4	3	1	4	1	4	2	4	3	15	7
1	6	0	10	3	2	2	2	1	20	6
Total	11	3	19	8	9	7	8	6	47	24

S = Number of Sites

CR = Number of Sites with Changing Rooms

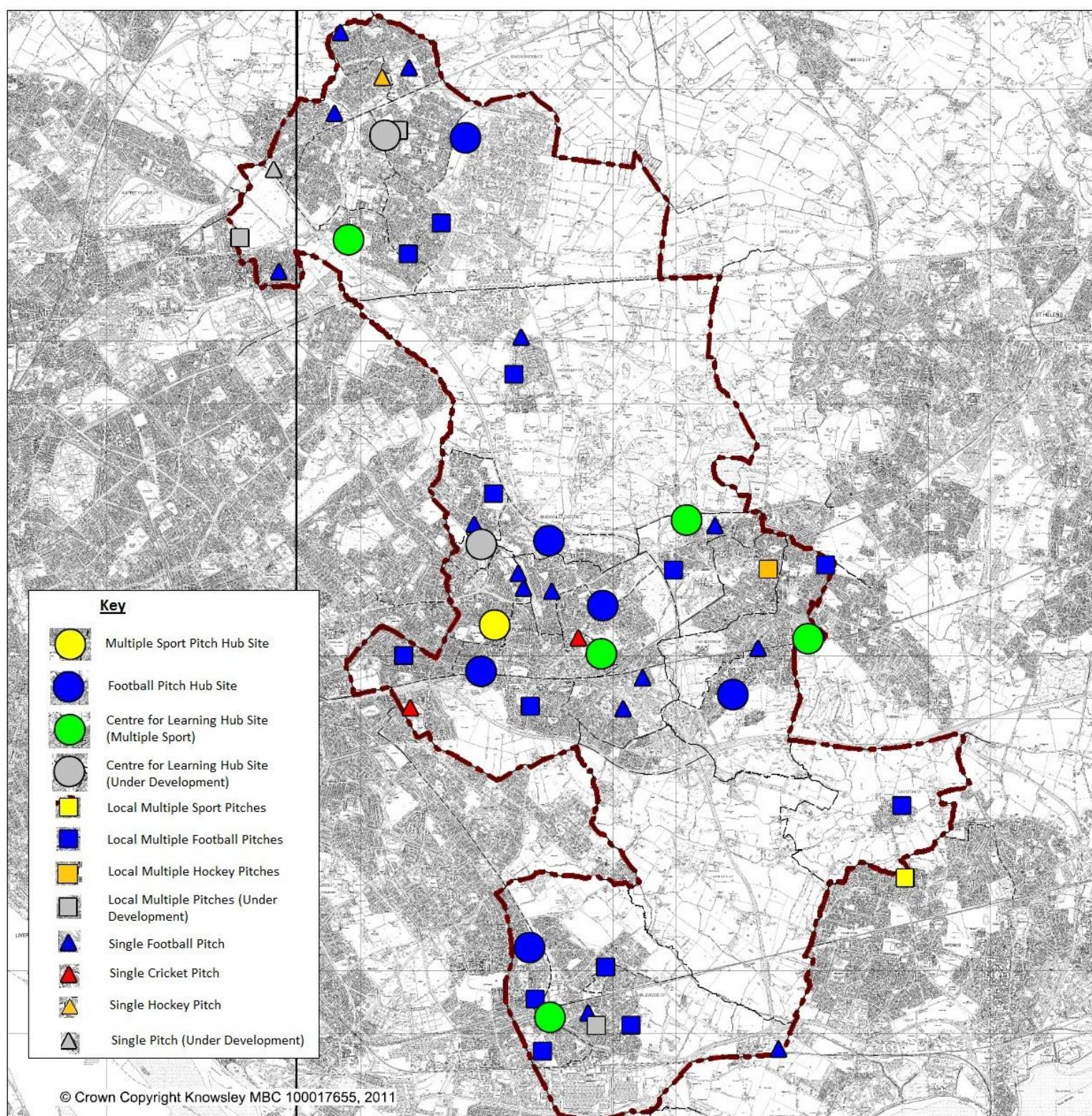
- 3.12. With regard to the above, it is noted that 63% of the individual playing pitch sites within Knowsley have associated changing rooms. Furthermore there is also an apparent relationship between an increase in scale of provision and the presence of ancillary facilities such as changing rooms. This is noting that aside from Jubilee Park (Huyton), all sites with 5 pitches or more include these facilities (92% in total), in comparison to only 7 sites (47%) with 2 - 4 pitches and 6 sites (30%) of single pitch sites.
- 3.13. Maps 3.1 – 3.4 on the following pages provide maps indicating individual sport facility locations and sub-divided by the existing hierarchy of site size and current use based upon the following criteria;

- Multiple sport pitch hub site (5+ pitches)
- Football pitch hub site (5+ pitches)
- Centre for Learning hub site (5+ pitches)
- Local multiple pitch site (2 - 4 pitches)
- Local multiple football pitch site (2 - 4 pitches)
- Local multiple hockey pitch site (2 - 4 pitches)
- Single football pitch sites
- Single cricket pitch sites
- Single hockey pitch sites

3.14. With regard to the above, it should be noted that part completed developments differ from categories in Table 3.5 and are represented separately.

3.15. The information in this context will inform the suitability of the existing hierarchy when considered relative to demand requirements in developing recommendations for a future hierarchy as part of the strategy.

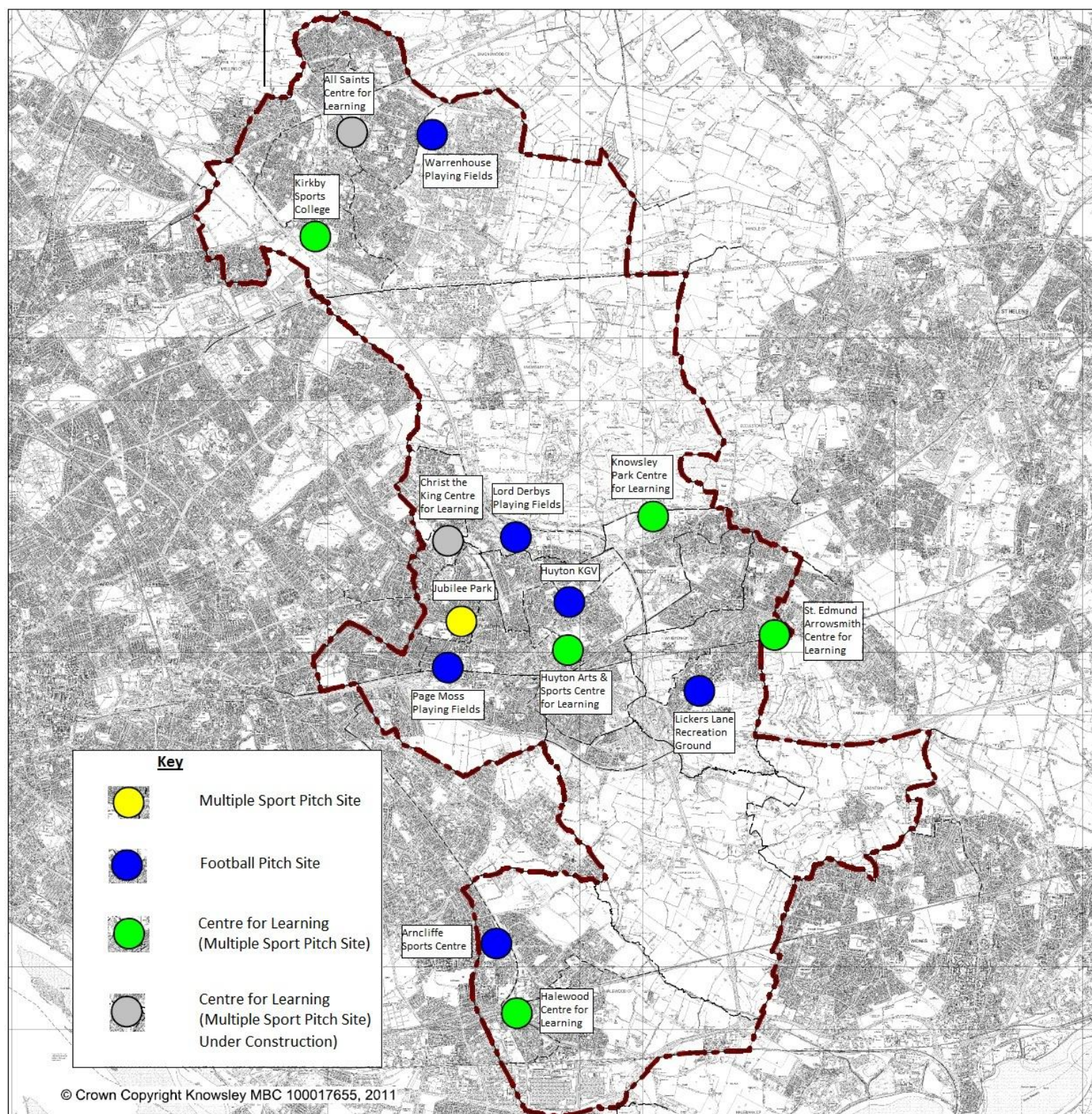
Map 3.1: Spatial Distribution of Knowsley's Pitch Sites



Site Audit

- Multiple Sport Pitch Hub Site: 1 (*Jubilee Park*)
- Football Pitch Hub Sites: 6 (*Arncliffe Sports Centre, Huyton KGV, Lickers Lane / Windy Arbor Road Recreation Ground, Lord Derbys Playing Fields, Page Moss Playing Fields & Page Moss Playing Fields*)
- Centre for Learning Hub Sites: 5 (*Halewood Centre for Learning, Huyton Arts & Sports Centre for Learning, Knowsley Park Centre for Learning, Kirkby Sports College & St. Edmund Arrowsmith Centre for Learning*)
- Centre for Learning Hub Sites: 2 (Under Development) (*All Saints Centre for Learning & Christ the King Centre for Learning*)
- Local Multiple Sport Pitch Site: 1 (*Parklands Sports Club*)
- Local Multiple Football Pitch Sites: 13 (*Blacklow Brow, Frederick Lunt Playing Fields, Halewood Doorstep Green, Halewood Leisure Centre, Hall Lane Park, Hollies Recreation Ground, Knowsley Recreation Ground, Park Brow Primary School, Pool Hey, Prescot KGV, Swanside Playing Fields, Two Butt Lane & Wignall Park*)
- Local Multiple Hockey Pitch Sites: 1 (*Prescot Leisure Centre*)
- Local Multiple Pitch Sites: 3 (Under Development) (*Cottage Fields, Greengates and Roughwood Primary School*)
- Single Football Pitch Sites: 15 (*Alt Park, Charlottes Pagsy, Field Lane Park, Grace Park, Manor Farm Road / Cowper Way, Mill Dam, Mill Lane, Moorfield, Nyland Road, Pentagon Sports Ground, Waterpark Drive, Valerie Park, West View, Whiston Willis & Woolfall Heath Avenue*)
- Single Cricket Pitch Sites: 2 (*Huyton Cricket Club & Whitefield Cricket Club, Court Hey Park*)
- Single Hockey Pitch Site: 1 (*Tower Hill Resource Centre*)
- Single Pitch Site (Under Development): 1 (*Copthorne Walk*)

Map 3.2: Spatial Distribution of Sports Hub Facilities (5+ pitches)



Site List

Kirkby Community Area

- All Saints Centre for Learning (2 grass pitches existing and a further 7 grass pitches under development)
- Kirkby Sports College (7 grass pitches and 1 synthetic pitch)
- Warrenhouse Playing Fields (9 grass pitches)

Huyton Community Area

- Christ the King Centre for Learning (1 synthetic pitch existing and a further 6 grass pitches under development)
- Huyton Arts and Sports Centre for Learning (7 grass pitches and 1 synthetic pitch)
- Huyton KGV (8 grass pitches)
- Jubilee Park (5 grass pitches)
- Lord Derby's Playing Fields (6 grass pitches)
- Page Moss Playing Fields (6 grass pitches)

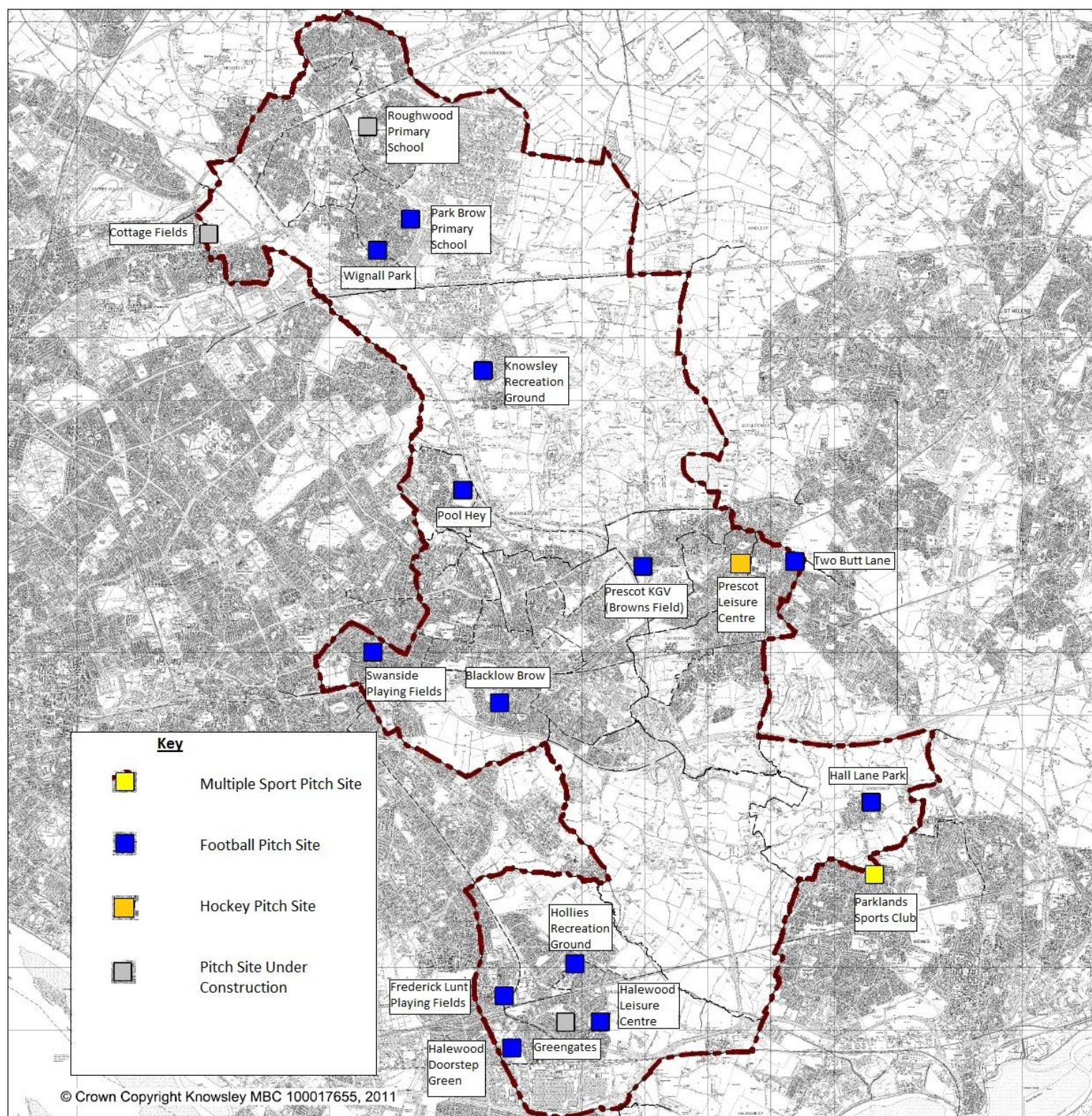
Prescot, Whiston and Cronton Community Area

- Knowsley Park Centre for Learning (8 grass pitches)
- Lickers Lane / Windy Arbor Road Recreation Ground (6 grass pitches)
- St. Edmund Arrowsmith Centre for Learning (6 grass pitches and 1 synthetic pitch)

Halewood Community Area

- Arncliffe Sports Centre (6 grass pitches)
- Halewood Centre for Learning (5 grass pitches and 1 synthetic pitch)

Map 3.3: Spatial Distribution of Localised Facilities (2 - 4 pitches)



Site List

Kirkby Community Area

- Cottage Fields (4 grass pitches under development)
- Park Brow Primary School (2 grass pitches existing and an additional pitch under development)
- Roughwood Primary School (3 grass pitches under development)
- Wignall Park (2 grass pitches)

Huyton Community Area

- Blacklow Brow (2 grass pitches)
- Knowsley Recreation Ground (2 grass pitches)
- Pool Hey (2 grass pitches)
- Swanside Playing Fields (2 grass pitches)

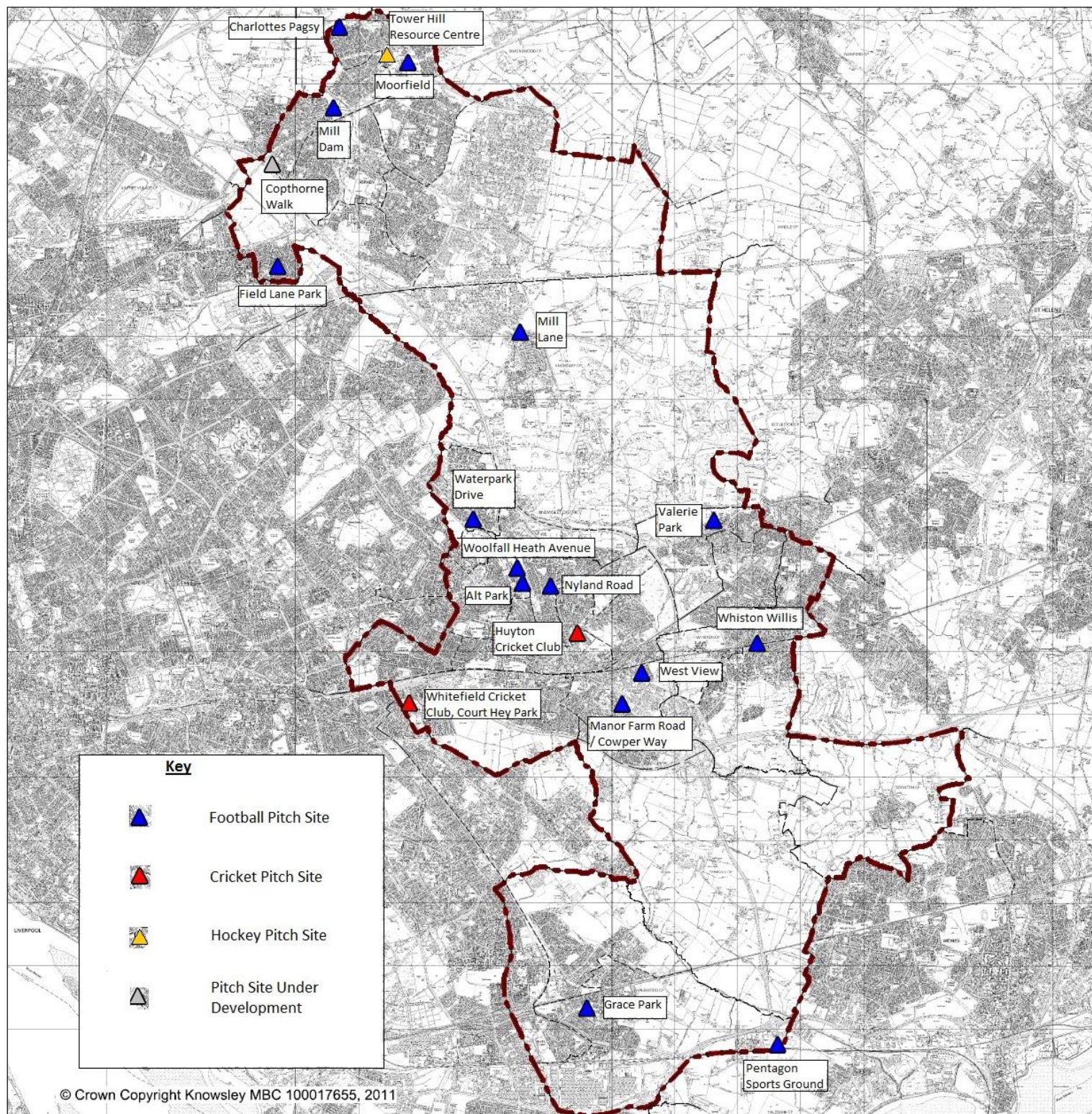
Prescot, Whiston and Cronton Community Area

- Hall Lane Park (The Pasture) (2 grass pitches)
- Parklands Sports Club (3 grass pitches)
- Prescot KGV (Browns Field) (4 grass pitches)
- Prescot Leisure Centre (2 synthetic pitches)
- Two Butt Lane (4 grass pitches)

Halewood Community Area

- Frederick Lunt Playing Fields (4 grass pitches)
- Greengates (3 grass pitches under development)
- Halewood Doorstep Green (2 grass pitches)
- Halewood Leisure Centre (3 grass pitches)
- Hollies Recreation Ground (2 grass pitches)

Map 3.4: Spatial Distribution of Single Pitch Sites



Site List

Kirkby Community Area

- Charlottes Pagsy
- Copthorne Walk
- Field Lane Park
- Mill Dam
- Millbrook Park
- Moorfield
- Tower Hill Resource Centre (synthetic pitch)

Halewood Community Area

- Grace Park
- Pentagon Sports Ground

Huyton Community Area

- Alt Park
- Huyton Cricket Club
- Manor Farm Road / Cowper Way
- Mill Lane
- Nyland Road
- Waterpark Drive
- West View
- Whitefield Cricket Club, Court Hey Park
- Woolfall Heath Avenue

Prescot, Whiston and Cronton Community Area

- Valerie Park
- Whiston Willis

- 3.16. As a general assessment, it can be identified from Maps 3.1 – 3.4 that the Community Areas are all well served by a diverse range of sports sites proportionate to their land area / population size, with each having a minimum of two sports hubs, four localised sports facilities and two single pitch sites. As a consequence, all of Knowsley residents are within a 15 minute drive of each type of facility in accordance with existing standards.
- 3.17. In addition to the above, for the purposes of assessing the suitability of existing local standards for outdoor sports provision in meeting playing pitch requirements it is important to understand the land area of outdoor sports provision (in hectares) available for community use in each area. This is set out in Table 3.6 below, although it should be noted that the existing local standard also includes provision for non-pitch sports.

Table 3.6: Land Area for Playing Pitches by Community Area

	Community Area			
	Kirkby	Huyton	Prescot, Whiston & Cronton	Halewood
Overall performance against current local standards for outdoor sports (1.85 ha / 1 000 residents)	+48.18	+45.89	-17.04	-14.84
Total land associated to or suitable for use as playing pitches (ha)	73.14	94.91	41.57	52.79
% relative to overall land currently in or suitable for outdoor sports use	45%	51%	92%	96%
Total land associated to playing pitches (ha) with secured community use	39.36	68.72	30.08	24.18
% relative to overall land in playing pitch use	54%	72%	72%	46%
Average land area in secured community use (ha) per playing pitch	1.07	1.34	0.73	0.98

- 3.18. The above information demonstrates the unsuitability of current local standards for outdoor sports provision in translating to playing pitch requirements. This is noting that variable factors such as the presence of golf courses in only the Huyton and Kirkby Community Areas has a disproportionate effect on performance against the standards. As a consequence there is no correlation with the overall scale of playing pitch provision relative to population size or the general efficiency of land use relative to pitches provided. There are also significant variations between Community Areas in terms of land area associated to playing pitches

which are in secured community use. In this context, it is clear that localised targets for pitch provision and outdoor sports provision are necessary to reflect the differences between community areas.

- 3.19. Notwithstanding the above, when considering the proportion of existing playing pitches with secured community use within Knowsley comparatively, the current level of 68% compares favourably with the majority of other districts in the Liverpool City Region and the cumulative average based upon information collated from the most recently completed playing pitch assessments, as displayed in Table 3.7.

Table 3.7: Percentage of Pitches in Community Use by District

Local Authority	% of pitches with secured community use
Wirral MBC	82%
Knowsley MBC	68%
Liverpool CC	62%
Sefton MBC	61%
West Lancashire DC	60%
St. Helens MBC	56%
Halton BC	54%
LCR Average	63%

- 3.20. There are also a further 26 additional pitches proposed on 8 sites within Knowsley with secured community use which are either currently under construction or have an extant planning consent. Table 3.8 provides a breakdown of the number, type and distribution of these pitches by community area, which have planning permission, have commenced and are expected to be delivered by late 2012 / early 2013; a detailed list is available within Appendix E.

Table 3.8: Knowsley's Future Playing Pitches

Sport	Community Area				Knowsley Total
	Kirkby	Huyton	Prescot, Whiston & Cronton	Halewood	
Cricket	1	1	0	0	2
Adult Football	3	0	0	0	3
Junior Football	7	3	0	3	13
Mini Football	6	2	0	0	8
Hockey	0	0	0	0	0
Rugby League	0	0	0	0	0
Rugby Union	0	0	0	0	0
Total	17	6	0	3	26

3.21. The above information is important to understand the additional pitch availability in the future in terms of supply and demand, and therefore will be considered when formulating and strategy recommendations within Sections 5 & 6. However as the sites are not yet available, the pitches are excluded from the baseline PPM and TGR calculations. Nevertheless it is apparent that Kirkby Community Area has a high proportion of the total emerging pitches (65%), with the majority of pitches in Knowsley as a whole comprising pitch provision for junior football (50%) or mini football (31%).

Overview of Pitch Quality

- 3.22. Although establishing the baseline supply of available pitches is necessary, an assessment of the existing condition of pitches and associated facilities is equally important, given the influence of quality and perception upon pitch usage.
- 3.23. Site assessments relating to pitch and facility quality were undertaken using assessment matrices by Council officers during different periods of the year to reflect seasonal use (see Appendix D for templates), with cricket pitches assessed in early September 2011 and football, rugby and hockey pitches assessed from mid September 2011 to late November 2011. Assessments were only made on pitches currently available for community use.
- 3.24. An overview of the results of the pitch quality and facility assessments within Knowsley is provided as Tables 3.9 and 3.10, with full results for each pitch and site available to view within Appendix G, with the site averages at Table 3.23 (pgs. 58 & 59).

Table 3.9: Knowsley Grass Pitch - Quality Overview

Pitch Quality Rating	Number of Pitches	% of Pitches
Excellent	10	8%
Good	76	56%
Average	23	17%
Below Average	24	18%
Poor	2	1%
Total	135	100%

Table 3.10: Knowsley Synthetic Pitch - Quality Overview

Pitch Quality Rating	Number of Pitches	% of Pitches
Excellent	0	-
Good	7	88%
Average	1	12%
Below Average	0	-
Poor	0	-
Total	8	100%

- 3.25. The information indicates that a high proportion of existing pitches within Knowsley are rated good quality or better (64%) and only a small proportion are considered to be below average or poor (19%).
- 3.26. Nevertheless the usage of pitches is also influenced by the quality of associated facilities; therefore Table 3.11 provides an overview of the quality assessments undertaken on the changing accommodation associated to the 24 individual sites where they are present.

Table 3.11: Knowsley Changing Accommodation - Quality Overview

Changing Accommodation Quality Rating	Number of Sites	% of Total Changing Sites	Number of Changing Rooms	% of Total Changing Rooms
Excellent	8	33%	32	36%
Good	10	42%	35	39%
Average	5	21%	21	23%
Poor	1	4%	2	2%
Very Poor	0	0%	0	0%
Total	24	100%	90	100%

- 3.27. The assessment of existing changing accommodation indicates that a significant proportion of facilities within Knowsley are rated as good quality or better, which is reflected in terms of three quarters (75%) of both sites and the proportion of actual changing rooms. Of the excellent quality ratings, 7 of 8 sites have been recently completed as part of the BSF programme. Only the changing provision at Prescott KGV (Browns Field) in Knowsley is considered to be below average at present.
- 3.28. The information within Table 3.12 below provides an indication of a relationship between a higher average pitch quality rating with an increase in site size and the presence of accommodation. However there are anomalies such as the sports hub site at Page Moss Playing Fields and Whitefield Cricket Club with pitches that are of a below average quality despite having changing facilities, and a general absence of changing facilities at the Jubilee Park sports hub despite its large pitch provision.

Table 3.12: Knowsley Pitch Site Size relative to Average Pitch Quality

Pitch Site Size	C R	Site Average Pitch Quality Rating					CR %
		Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	Poor	
Sports Hub	Y	1	8	1	1	0	92%
	N	0	0	1	0	0	8%
Localised Facilities	Y	0	4	3	0	0	44%
	N	0	3	2	4	0	56%
Single Pitch	Y	0	4	1	1	0	30%
	N	0	0	5	7	2	70%

CR = Changing Rooms

3.29. All of the pitch assessments are a snap shot of a single time period and therefore supplementary information has been utilised from sources such as consultation responses and pitch booking records to assess how the longer term natural influences such as the weather may affect the quality of the pitches at different times of year. In this regard, when undertaking additional research into pitch usage, an accurate overview of current match use of pitches (excluding school use only) within Knowsley was also identified. This is presented in Table 3.13.

Table 3.13: Knowsley Playing Pitches in Current Match Use

Sport	Community Area				Knowsley Total
	Kirkby	Huyton	Prescot, Whiston & Cronton	Halewood	
Cricket	0	2	0	0	2
Adult Football	9	11	10	5	35
Junior Football	4	12	10	4	30
Mini Football	1	7	3	5	16
Hockey	1*	0	2*	0	3*
Rugby League	0	0	1	0	1
Rugby Union	0	0	0	0	0
Total	15	32	26	14	87

* Denotes synthetic pitches

3.30. The information in Table 3.13 can be utilised to provide a simplistic overview of usage relative to existing supply when cross referenced as a percentage of the pitches which are currently available. This is provided as Table 3.14 which offers a useful insight into the localised variations of current pitch usage from a spatial and sporting perspective and in particular identifies anomalies that require further investigation, such as the low usage levels in Kirkby and with particular regard to junior and mini football. However the data should be used for informative purposes only, as it is difficult to otherwise draw accurate correlations that can be translated to supply and demand conclusions given it includes no weighting for intensity of use, number of pitches, number of teams, variations in pitch quality or latent demand.

3.31. With regard to the above, the PPM and TGR calculations provide a better analytical measure of the supply and demand balance, particularly when applying future forecasts. However localised information can provide insight into the influence on pitch quality upon general usage of different types of sports, this information is provided in the subsequent sub-sections for each Community Area.

Table 3.14: % of Pitches in Community Use and Current Match Use

Sport	Community Area				Knowsley Overall
	Kirkby	Huyton	Prescot, Whiston & Cronton	Halewood	
Cricket	-	67%	0%	0%	29%
Adult Football	60%	79%	91%	71%	75%
Junior Football	57%	55%	71%	50%	51%
Mini Football	20%	78%	50%	63%	57%
Hockey	50%	0%	67%	0%	38%
Rugby League	-	0%	100%	-	50%
Rugby Union	-	-	-	-	-
Total	52%	63%	68%	56%	58%

Pitch Quality Information for Kirkby

- 3.32. The information within Table 3.15 below suggests that Kirkby has a significant proportion of good quality or better pitches (59%), which compares favourably with Huyton, but is much lower than other areas of Knowsley. There is however significant variation in quality in terms of pitch types for football and a specific qualitative deficiency relative to mini football where there are no pitches which are rated better than average.

Table 3.15: Quality of Pitches Available for Community Use in Kirkby

Sport	Pitch Quality Rating					Overall
	Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	Poor	
Cricket	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adult Football	2	7	3	3	0	15
Junior Football	2	5	0	0	0	7
Mini Football	0	0	1	4	0	5
Hockey	0	1*	1*	0	0	2*
Rugby League	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rugby Union	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	4	13	5	7	0	29

* Denotes synthetic pitches

- 3.33. Table 3.15 can also be utilised to provide a simplistic overview of usage relative to existing supply when cross referenced as a percentage of the pitches which are currently available. This is provided as Table 3.16.

Table 3.16: % of Pitches in Current Match Use relative to Pitch Quality within Kirkby

Sport	Pitch Quality Rating					Overall
	Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	Poor	
Cricket	-	-	-	-	-	-
Adult Football	100%	71%	33%	33%	-	60%
Junior Football	100%	29%	-	-	-	0%
Mini Football	-	-	0%	25%	-	20%
Hockey	-	100%	0%	-	-	50%
Rugby League	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rugby Union	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	100%	62%	20%	29%	-	38%

- 3.34. With regard to the information in Table 3.16, it is clear that there is a general correlation of better quality pitches in Kirkby encouraging increased usage, particularly where the pitches are rated as good or better. However the overall usage of pitches in Kirkby is very low (38%) compared to other areas of Knowsley. To address this situation, site specific priorities for improvement are likely to be required and will be set out within Section 5, following consideration of PPM / TGR analysis.
- 3.35. The absence of existing match use of junior football pitches despite all 7 being rated good quality also requires further investigation relating to existing and future demand. In this context, it should be noted that all junior pitches available for community use have been recently delivered through the BSF / PFS programmes, together with a number of adult pitches.

Pitch Quality Information for Huyton

- 3.36. The information within Table 3.17 on the following page, suggests that Huyton Community Area has significant variation in the overall quality of pitches with a substantial proportion rated as good quality or better (47%). However there are significant variations by pitch type, with apparent qualitative deficiencies relating to rugby league and junior football. The latter is noting that more than a third (36%) of junior football pitches are rated below average, compared to approximately a fifth of adult football pitches (21%) and the 2 mini pitches which are rated as poor (22%).

Table 3.17: Quality of Pitches Available for Community Use in Huyton

Sport	Pitch Quality Rating					Overall
	Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	Poor	
Cricket	0	2	0	1	0	3
Adult Football	3	5	3	3	0	14
Junior Football	0	7	8	8	0	22
Mini Football	0	5	2	0	2	9
Hockey	0	2*	0	0	0	2*
Rugby League	0	0	0	1	0	1
Rugby Union	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	3	21	12	13	2	51

* Denotes synthetic pitches

- 3.37. Table 3.17 can also be utilised to provide a simplistic overview of usage relative to existing supply when cross referenced as a percentage of the pitches which are currently available. This is provided as Table 3.18.

Table 3.18: % of Pitches in Current Match Use relative to Pitch Quality within Huyton

Sport	Pitch Quality Rating					Overall
	Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	Poor	
Cricket	-	50%	-	100%	-	67%
Adult Football	100%	100%	100%	0%	-	79%
Junior Football	-	100%	57%	0%	-	55%
Mini Football	-	100%	100%	-	0%	78%
Hockey	-	0%	-	-	-	0%
Rugby League	-	-	-	0%	-	0%
Rugby Union	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	100%	86%	75%	8%	0%	63%

- 3.38. With regard to the information in Table 3.18, it is clear that there is a general correlation of better quality pitches in Huyton encouraging increased usage, particularly where the pitches are rated as average or better. In this regard it should be noted that the overall usage of community available pitches within Huyton is 63% which is above the

Knowsley average of 58% and compares favourably with Kirkby and Halewood.

- 3.39. Notwithstanding the above, the absence of existing match use of hockey and rugby league pitches requires further investigation relating to existing and future demand.
- 3.40. The anomaly relating to cricket in terms of the use of a below average pitch reflects the existing condition of the facilities at Whitefield Cricket Club, Court Hey Park. To address this situation, site specific priorities for improvement are likely to be required and will be set out within Section 6, following consideration of PPM / TGR analysis.

Pitch Quality Information for Prescott, Whiston and Cronton

- 3.41. The information within Table 3.19 suggests that Prescott, Whiston and Cronton Community Area has a significant proportion of pitches rated good quality or better (82%), which compares favourably with other areas of Knowsley such as Kirkby and Huyton. There are no substantial qualitative deficiencies in terms of pitch quality for the sport types where there is an existing supply. However site specific priorities for improvement are likely to be required and will be set out within Section 5, following consideration of PPM / TGR analysis.

Table 3.19: Quality of Pitches Available for Community Use in Prescott, Whiston and Cronton

Sport	Pitch Quality Rating					Overall
	Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	Poor	
Cricket	0	2	0	1	0	3
Adult Football	2	7	2	0	0	11
Junior Football	1	10	3	0	0	14
Mini Football	0	5	1	0	0	6
Hockey	0	3*	0	0	0	3*
Rugby League	0	1	0	0	0	1
Rugby Union	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	3	28	6	1	0	38

* Denotes synthetic pitches

- 3.42. Table 3.19 can also be utilised to provide a simplistic overview of usage relative to existing supply when cross referenced as a percentage of the pitches which are currently available. This is provided as Table 3.20.

Table 3.20: % of Pitches in Current Match Use relative to Pitch Quality within Prescott, Whiston and Cronton

Sport	Pitch Quality Rating					Overall
	Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	Poor	
Cricket	-	0%	-	0%	-	0%
Adult Football	100%	100%	50%	-	-	91%
Junior Football	100%	70%	67%	-	-	71%
Mini Football	-	40%	100%	-	-	50%
Hockey	-	67%	-	-	-	67%
Rugby League	-	100%	-	-	-	100%
Rugby Union	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	100%	68%	67%	0%	-	68%

- 3.43. With regard to the information in Table 3.20, it is clear that there is a general correlation of better quality pitches in Prescott, Whiston and Cronton encouraging increased usage, particularly where the pitches are rated as average or better. In this regard it should be noted that the overall usage of community available pitches within Prescott, Whiston and Cronton (68%) represents the highest rate within Knowsley and far above the average rate (58%).
- 3.44. Notwithstanding the above, the absence of existing match use of cricket pitches requires further investigation relating to existing and future demand.
- 3.45. The anomaly relating to the lesser usage rate of good quality mini football pitches relative to average quality pitches reflects recently delivery through the BSF at the St. Edmund Arrowsmith Centre for Learning which have only recently been made available for community use.

Pitch Quality Information for Halewood Community Area

- 3.46. The information within Table 3.21 suggests that Halewood Community Area has a significant proportion of pitches rated good quality or better (84%), which compares favourably with other areas of Knowsley such as Kirkby and Huyton. Nevertheless there are some minor qualitative deficiencies in terms of pitch quality for adult and junior football, with site specific priorities likely to be required following consideration of PPM / TGR analysis. These are set out in more detail within Section 5.

Table 3.21: Quality of Pitches Available for Community Use in Halewood

Sport	Pitch Quality Rating					Overall
	Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	Poor	
Cricket	0	1	0	0	0	1
Adult Football	0	5	1	1	0	7
Junior Football	0	6	0	2	0	8
Mini Football	0	8	0	0	0	8
Hockey	0	1*	0	0	0	1*
Rugby League	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rugby Union	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	21	1	3	0	25

* Denotes synthetic pitches

- 3.47. Table 3.21 can also be utilised to provide a simplistic overview of usage relative to existing supply when cross referenced as a percentage of the pitches which are currently available. This is provided as Table 3.22.

Table 3.22: % of Pitches in Current Match Use relative to Pitch Quality within Halewood

Sport	Pitch Quality Rating					Overall
	Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	Poor	
Cricket	-	0%	-	-	-	0%
Adult Football	-	100%	0%	0%	-	71%
Junior Football	-	67%	-	0%	-	50%
Mini Football	-	63%	-	-	-	63%
Hockey	-	0%	-	-	-	0%
Rugby League	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rugby Union	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	67%	0%	0%	-	56%

- 3.48. With regard to the information in Table 3.22, it is clear that there is a general correlation of better quality pitches in Halewood encouraging increased usage, as there are no current use of pitches rated average quality or worse. The overall usage rate of community available pitches within Halewood (56%) is below the average rate within Knowsley (58%)

and only compares favourably to Kirkby. In this regard, it should be noted that the lesser usage rate of good quality junior and mini football pitches may reflect the recently delivery of additional supply through the BSF at the Halewood Centre for Learning which has only recently been made available to the community for use.

- 3.49. In the context of the above, the absence of existing use of cricket and hockey pitches rated as good quality requires further investigation relating to demand. The subsequent Section 4 provides an assessment of existing and future demand for pitch sport use within Knowsley.

Site Specific Information

- 3.50. In addition to the locally specific information, it is also appropriate to provide an overview of the average pitch quality of specific sites as per Table 3.23 which will subsequently be used for comparison with survey responses relating to pitch quality and utilised as part of the Quality / Value matrix and inform the recommendations in the strategy / action plan.

Table 3.23: Site Specific Average Pitch Quality Scores

Location	CA	Pitches	Average PQ
Kirkby Sports College CfL	Kirkby	8	90
All Saints CfL	Kirkby	2	89
St. Edmund Arrowsmith CfL	PWC	7	86
Halewood CfL	Halewood	6	85
Lord Derby Memorial Fields	Huyton	6	83
KGV	Huyton	8	81
Hollies Recreation Ground	Halewood	2	80
Huyton Arts & Sports CfL	Huyton	8	79
Whiston Willis	PWC	1	79
Lickers Lane / Windy Arbor Road Recreation Ground	PWC	6	78
Arncliffe Sports Centre	Halewood	6	78
Valerie Park	PWC	1	77
Halewood Leisure Centre	Halewood	3	78
Hall Lane Park (The Pasture)	PWC	2	75
Knowsley Park CfL	PWC	9	74
Huyton CC	Huyton	1	73
Christ the King CfL	Huyton	1	71
Prescot Leisure Centre	PWC	2	71
Frederick Lunt	Halewood	4	69
Park Brow Community Primary	Kirkby	2	65
Parklands	PWC	3	64
Two Butt Lane	PWC	4	63
Warrenhouse Playing Fields	Kirkby	9	63
Knowsley Recreation Ground	Huyton	2	62
Mill Lane (KV)	Huyton	1	61
Waterpark Drive	Huyton	1	61
KGV Prescot	PWC	4	60

Pool Hey	Huyton	2	60
Pentagon Sports	Halewood	1	56
Alt Park	Huyton	1	55
Charlottes Pagsy	Kirkby	1	55
Jubilee Park	Huyton	5	55
Tower Hill Community Centre	Kirkby	1	55
Blacklow Brow	Huyton	2	54
Page Moss Playing Fields	Huyton	6	51
Mill Dam	Kirkby	1	47
Whitefield CC, Court Hey Park	Huyton	1	44
Swanside Playing Fields	Huyton	2	44
Wignall Park	Kirkby	2	44
Halewood Doorstep Green	Halewood	2	43
Field Lane Park	Kirkby	1	42
Grace Park	Halewood	1	40
Millbrook Park	Kirkby	1	39
West View	Huyton	1	37
Woolfall Heath Avenue	Huyton	1	35
Moorfield	Kirkby	1	31
Cowper Way	Huyton	1	29
Nyland Road	Huyton	1	16

Score	0-29	30-54	55-64	65-89	90+
Quality	Poor	Below Average	Average	Good	Excellent

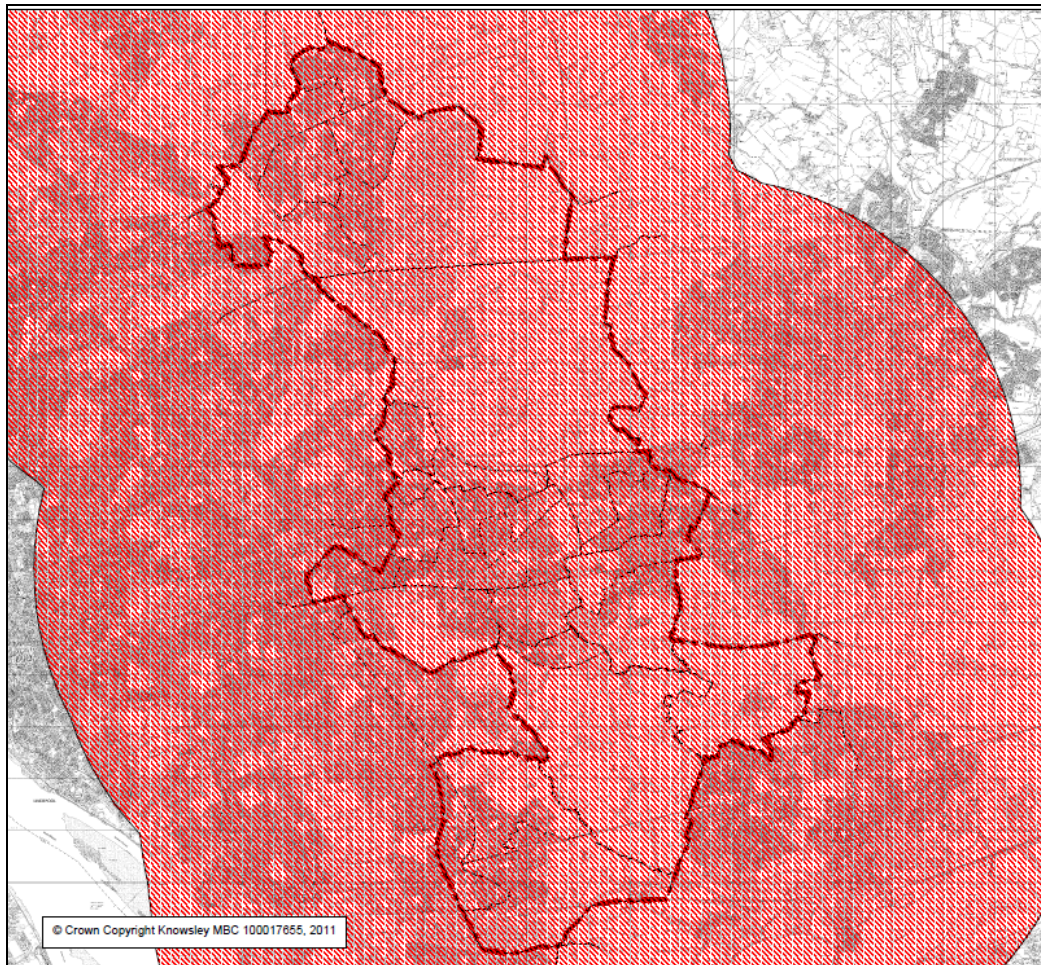
3.51. Table 3.23 indicates that the quality of the 48 pitch sites has a current average score of 61 which corresponds with a fair rating, however when based upon the average quality of the 143 total pitches the score is much higher at 69% or a good rating. This is due to the good average rating of pitches at a high proportion of sites with a multiple pitches, including the Centres for Learning (8 sites – 35 pitches), Huyton KGV (8 pitches), Lord Derby Memorial Fields (6 pitches), Lickers Lane / Windy Arbor Road Recreation Ground (5 pitches) and Arncliffe Sports Centre (5 pitches). In contrast, 10 of the 15 sites (67%) with cumulative scores of below average or poor comprise a single pitch, with only Page Moss Playing Fields, Arnside Road (6 pitches) having in excess of two pitches.

Accessibility

3.52. The accessibility of local sites across Knowsley can be measured against the local adopted standards to outdoor sports facilities of 6km. This is indicated on Map 3.5 on the following page which provides an overview of the accessibility catchments for outdoor sports provision.

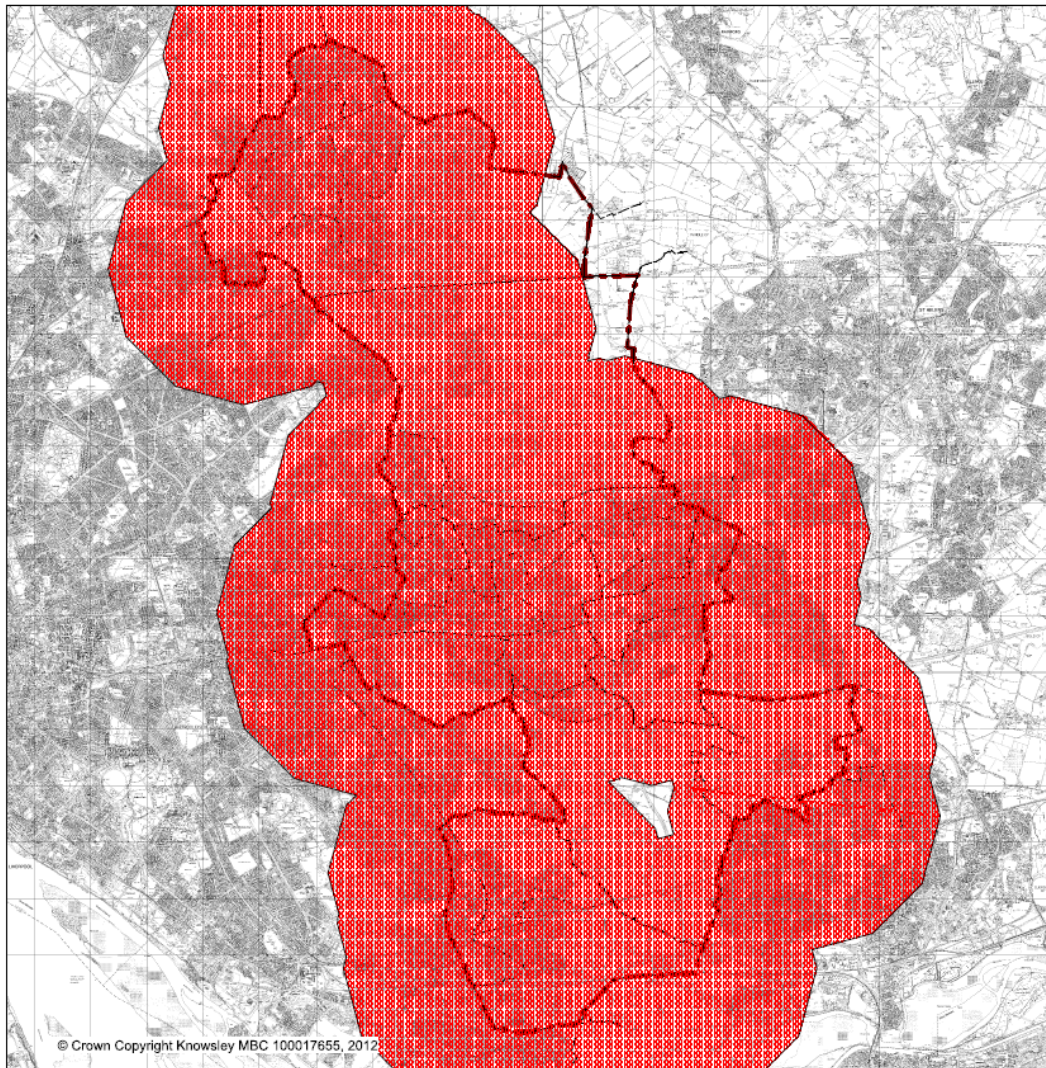
3.53. The buffer distances applied to Map 3.5 indicates that the 6km catchment distance together with the distribution of outdoor sports provision ensures that the minimum accessibility requirement for Knowsley residents is achieved.

Map 3.5: Analysis of Knowsley's Outdoor Sports provision against Current Accessibility Standards (6km)



- 3.54. With regard to the above, it is questionable whether the existing local standard of 6km (based upon 15 minutes travel time by car) will remain appropriate and suitable in sustainability terms and based upon local needs. This is noting that it promotes a degree of reliance upon private car use and is complicated by the differing levels of car ownership in Knowsley, which may create a barrier to access for a proportion of the local community.
- 3.55. In response to the above, it is considered appropriate to also assess a reasonable alternative which better aligns with the Community Area footprints to which the quantity standards are assessed. In this regard, it is considered that a 2 400m distance is reflective of the travel patterns within Community Area and is equivalent to a 30 minute walk or 10 minutes by public transport. The results of this appraisal are displayed in Map 3.6 on the following page and indicate that the distribution of existing playing pitches across the Community Areas would provide appropriate catchment areas at this distance to serve all existing settlements. In this context, it is recommended that Council consider the possibility of reducing the existing accessibility standards through the Local Plan.

Map 3.6: Accessibility Distance Analysis of Playing Pitches (2 400m)



- 3.56. To supplement the above and assist any future modelling of playing pitch provision to meet future demands requirements as part of the implementation of the strategy, Appendix M includes more detailed sports specific accessibility maps.

Carrying Capacity

- 3.57. 'Towards A Level Playing Field' encourages the use of carrying capacity of pitches as part of the PPM to take account of the number of games that pitches are adequately able to sustain per week.
- 3.58. There is no specific formula for calculating the carrying capacity of pitches as it is dependent upon a wide range of factors, such as weather conditions, age/weight of users and quality of players. However through local knowledge, site visits, local club surveys, interviews and an analysis of usage patterns from the previous season, it is possible to estimate the

potential capacity of each pitch to utilise as a benchmark against existing use and analyse using TGR calculations and forecasts.

- 3.59. To provide a reasoned judgement on the carrying capacity of pitches, the following criteria was considered for each pitch that had already been collated as part of the pitch quality assessments or through ongoing monitoring;
- number of cancellations due to poor condition of pitch;
 - whether the condition of the pitch is declining year to year;
 - whether the condition of the pitch is declining over the season;
 - existing maintenance regime;
 - whether the carrying capacity could be increased by improved maintenance;
 - the quality score given to the pitch;
- 3.60. In addition to the above, it is also important to consider the extent to which existing pitches meet current and future demand, but also the requirements to maximise the longevity of the pitches offering effective provision of sufficient quality. In particular this includes the recovery time of pitches necessary to prevent longer-term deterioration resulting from existing and future use patterns. This approach should provide a more accurate assessment of supply relative to demand, by applying weightings and classifications to types of pitches in accordance with Table 3.24 below.

Table 3.24: Carrying Capacity Weightings for Pitch Type

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

- 3.61. The standard for the PPM assumes a general carrying capacity of two games per week per pitch. However, Table 3.24 reflects the fact that if a pitch is of particularly good quality, it may be able to accommodate more than two matches per week, which therefore allows for a higher weighting. In contrast a poor quality pitch may only able to accommodate one match per week or one match every fortnight based on cancellation information / consultation and therefore must be weighted accordingly. With regard to Table 3.24, a full list of the individual pitches and the categorisation is available as Appendix H, with the carrying capacity of pitches based on informed judgements summarised in Table 3.25.

Table 3.25: Knowsley Playing Pitches – Carrying Capacity (per week)

Sport	Community Area				Knowsley Total
	Kirkby	Huyton	Prescot, Whiston & Cronton	Halewood	
Cricket	0	7	5	2	14
Adult Football	25	25	21	12	83
Junior Football	14	22	28	14	78
Mini Football*	10	28	24	32	94
Hockey**	6	6	9	3	24
Rugby League	0	1	2	0	3
Rugby Union	0	0	0	0	0
Total	55	89	89	63	296

* Adjustments reflect carrying capacity uplift equivalents associated to mini football provision.

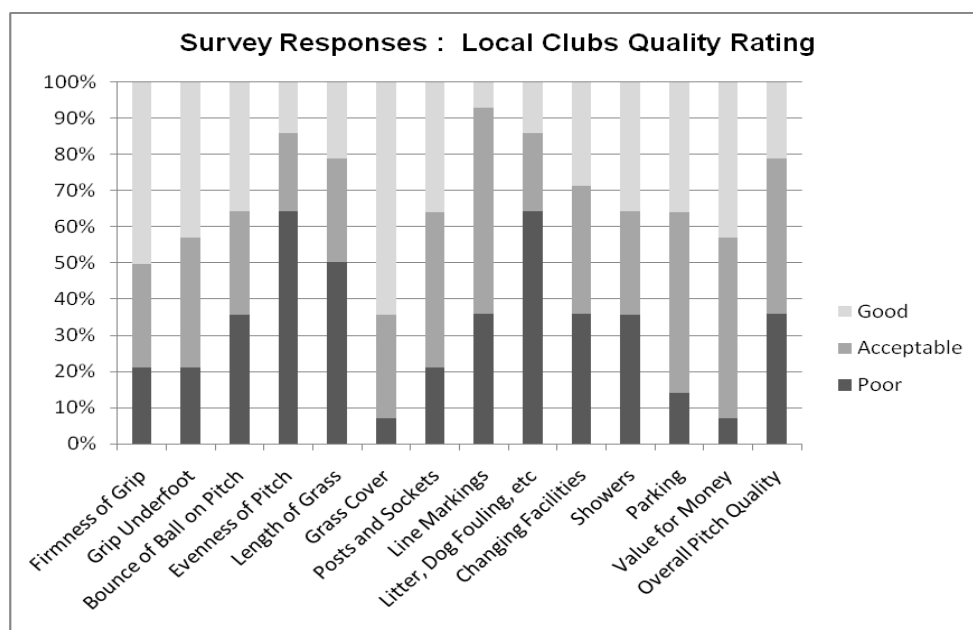
** Capacity theoretical, maximum not limited to this figure, 3G pitches (1 x Huyton, 1 x Halewood) may also be capable of use for other sports.

- 3.62. Table 3.25 and the list in Appendix H, incorporates deductions for pitches that are also used as school facilities in Knowsley which are available for community use outside of school hours, primarily in evenings and at weekends. An assumption is therefore made that the additional demands placed on these pitches by school use is equivalent to one match per week, which is added as a team equivalent to the TGR calculations in Section 4 to reflect maximum capacity being restricted to two non-school matches per week regardless of other factors.
- 3.63. The judgements made on pitches in Table 3.24 included consideration of the extent to which each pitch is used for training activity, together with the accessibility for and patterns of informal use relative to each site derived from the quality assessment. This is noting that additional wear and deterioration to the pitch that can arise from these separate levels of usage and that it is difficult to provide definitive weighting within the TGR calculations, given intensity is variable by site and seasonal.
- 3.64. As noted below Table 3.24, synthetic hockey pitches do not fit accurately within the carrying capacity calculation as wear and deterioration of these pitches is far less intensive than on grass, with no rest periods required. On this basis, the 8 full size synthetic pitches have a much higher theoretical capacity for hockey and 3G surfaces could serve other sports.

Consultation Responses from Sports Clubs, Pitch Providers and Leagues

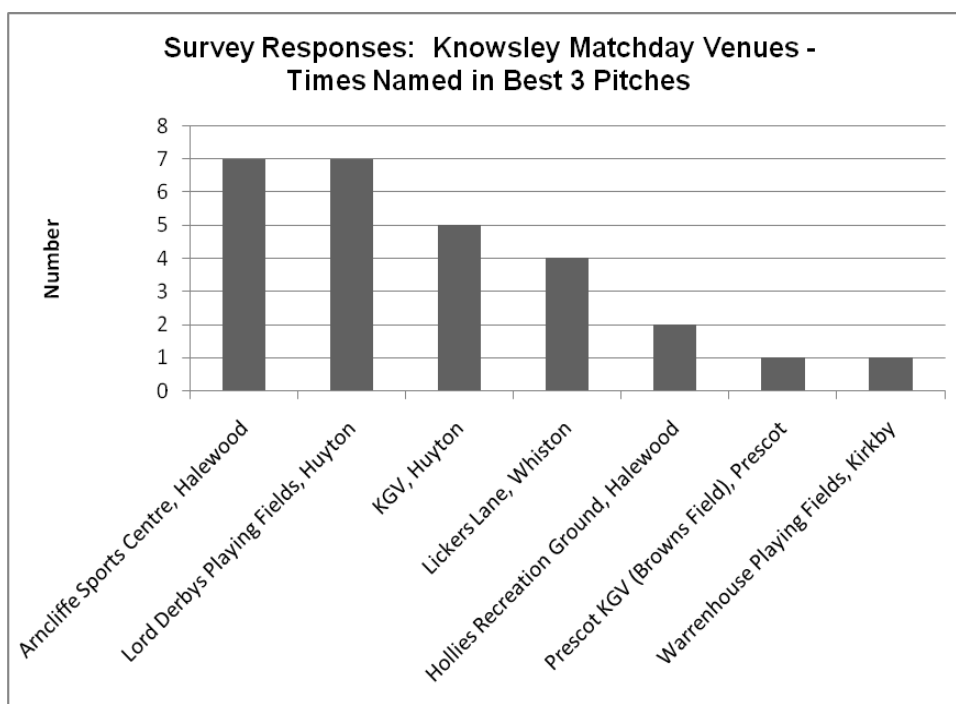
- 3.65. To support the site assessments and audits undertaken, the survey of local clubs included specific questions relating to pitch quality.

Figure 3.1: Consultation - Local Clubs Quality Assessment



- 3.66. Figure 3.1 provides an overview of local clubs perception of the existing situation in terms of sub-criteria of pitch quality relating to their home match venue. This may identify potential priorities for targeting future improvements.
- 3.67. With regard to the above, it is clear that there is room for improvement across all categories, noting that 36% of respondents consider the overall pitch quality to be poor. Significant issues for local clubs that exceed the overall level are; evenness of pitch (64% rated as poor), litter, dog fouling, etc (64% rated as poor) and length of grass (50% rated as poor). This information should be useful to assist priorities to deliver recommendations for appropriate action and strategies in Section 5 and 6.
- 3.68. In addition to the overview, the surveys of local clubs included a question where the respondent was asked to name the 3 best and worse pitches they played on in the previous season. Figures 3.2 and 3.3 provide an illustration of the Knowsley pitches mentioned in the survey, however the information should be treated with caution, given the 58 local clubs which responded do not play on all of Knowsley's pitches.

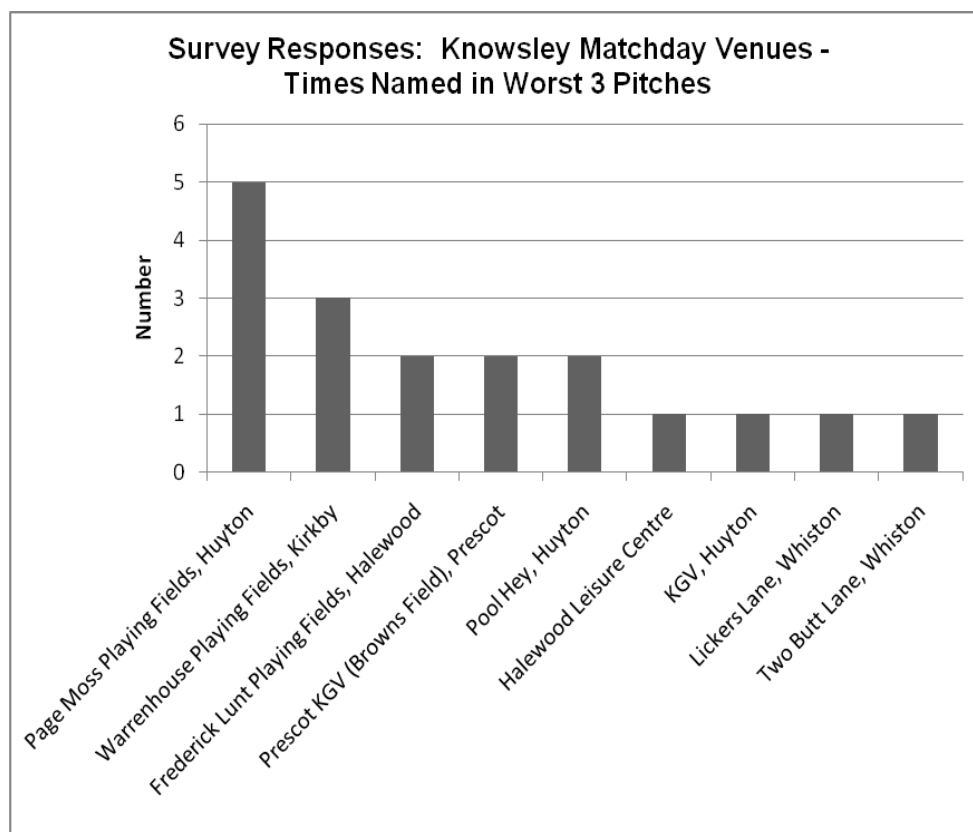
Figure 3.2: Consultation on Knowsley Matchday Venues (Best Pitches)



3.69. With regard to the above, there is some correlation between the five sites which were mentioned most frequently and multiple times in Figure 3.2 (Arncliffe Sports Centre, Lord Derbys Playing Fields, Huyton KGV, Lickers Lane / Windy Arbor Road and Hollies Recreation Ground) and Table 3.23. This is noting that all of these sites were considered to be good quality sites as part of the pitch quality assessments. However the presence of Prescott KGV (Browns Field) and Warrenhouse Playing Fields which were each mentioned on a single occasion is surprising, given that both were considered to be only average quality by pitch quality assessments and also feature significantly in responses to Knowsley’s worst pitches.

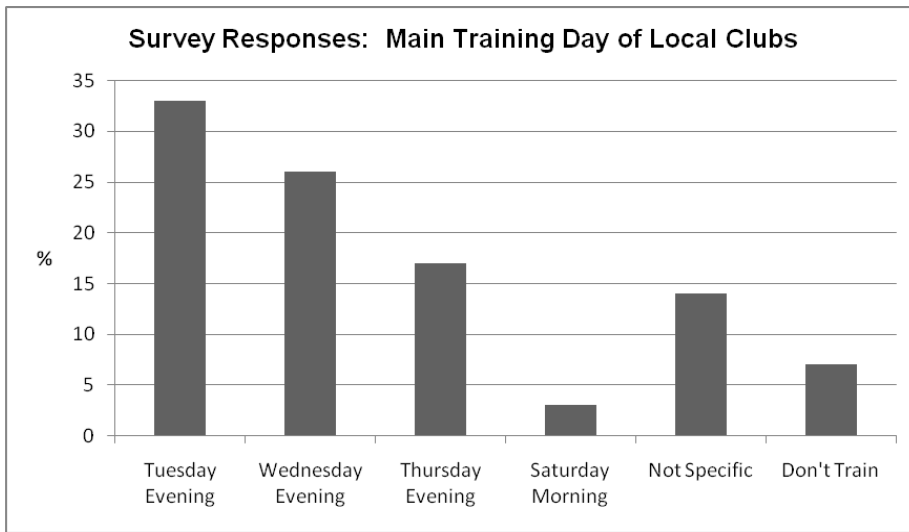
3.70. Further to the above, Figure 3.3 indicates a direct correlation between the four of the five sites that were mentioned most frequently and multiple times as the worst pitches (Page Moss Playing Fields, Warrenhouse Playing Fields, Prescott KGV (Browns Field) and Pool Hey) and Table 3.23. This is noting that these sites were also considered to be average or below average quality sites as part of the pitch quality assessments. However aside from Two Butt Lane (also average quality), the presence of the remaining sites is surprising given all were considered to be good quality by pitch quality assessments, and KGV Huyton and Lickers Lane / Windy Arbor Road also feature more significantly in Figure 3.2 relating to Knowsley’s best pitches.

Figure 3.3: Consultation on Knowsley Matchday Venues (Worst Pitches)



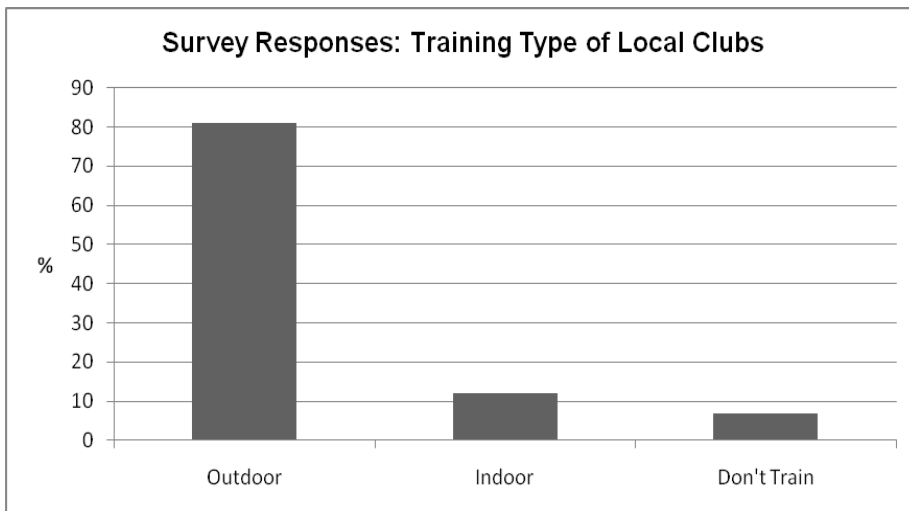
- 3.71. The outcomes of the surveys in the context of Figures 3.2 and 3.3, particularly in terms of the repetition of some sites in both the best and worst categories, suggests that there is some subjectivity in the views offered in the survey and therefore the information should not be relied upon solely as an indicator and rather should be utilised to supplement the more detailed pitch quality assessment information. This is noting the site surveys were undertaken by a single individual, which ensures that the appraisals are more consistent.
- 3.72. In addition to the above, aside from matchday venues, local clubs also require training facilities and the surveys undertaken therefore requested consultation responses in terms of existing patterns of training use in terms of main day / time and location – no clubs provided a response which indicated more than one training session per week per team. Figures 3.4 - 3.6 provide an illustration in these regard.

Figure 3.4: Consultation on Local Club Training Times



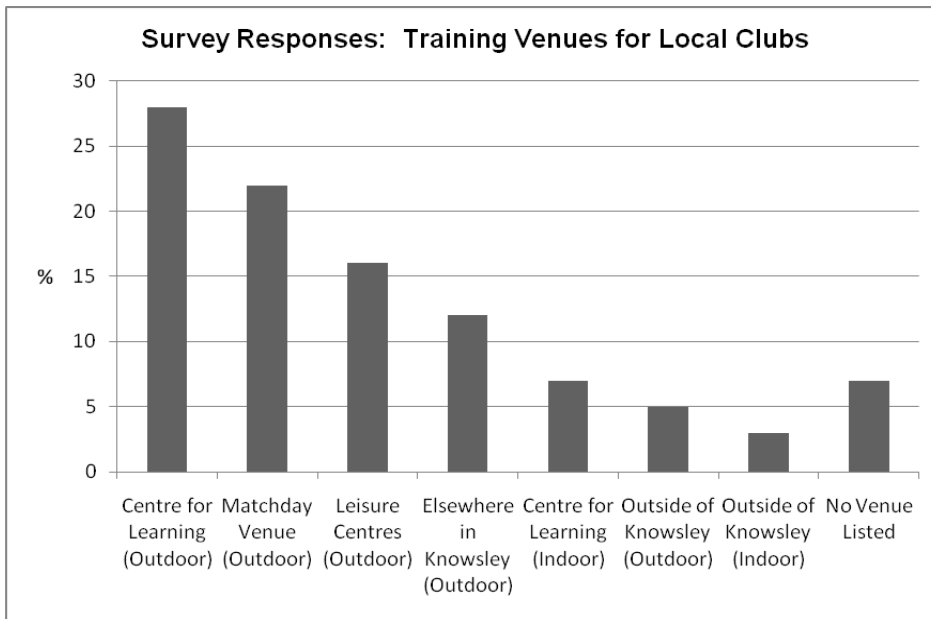
3.73. Figure 3.4 indicates a clear preference of local clubs for midweek evening training sessions, which is understandable given that the majority of pitch sports have match fixtures on weekends, but particularly in winter will dictate a requirement for appropriate outdoor facilities with floodlighting or alternatively indoor provision. This demand is supported by Figure 3.5.

Figure 3.5: Consultation on Local Club Training Facility Use



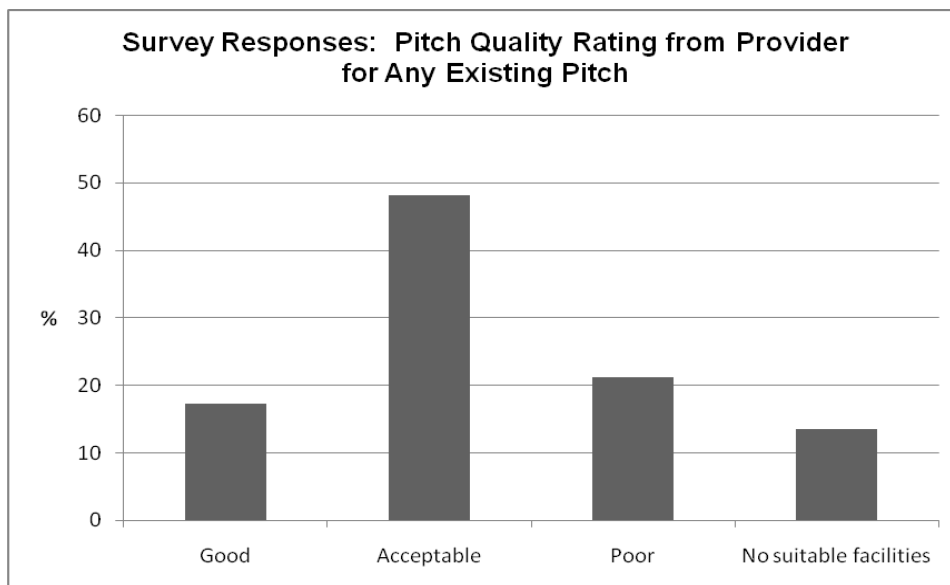
3.74. The current requirement for training facilities for local clubs suggests a majority of outdoor facilities (81%), with some indoor facility use (12%) and the possibility of latent demand due to some local clubs not participating in weekly training sessions (7%). The extent to which this demand is currently accommodated within Knowsley is illustrated in Figure 3.6.

Figure 3.6: Consultation on Training Venues for Local Clubs



- 3.75. It is clear from the above that the majority of training venues differ from match day venues, particularly in winter, with many football clubs utilising Knowsley’s floodlit synthetic provision (both full size and small sided) or indoor sports facilities during midweek evenings at equipped Leisure Centres, Hub Sites and Centres for Learning. This includes displaced demand with some clubs playing their home matches in neighbouring districts, but training in Knowsley, as well as others that play home matches in Knowsley but choose to train in other areas.
- 3.76. The requirement for training will be considered alongside the outcomes of the TGR / PPM analysis, in formulating conclusions, recommendations and proposed strategies in Sections 6 and 7.
- 3.77. In addition to the local club survey, 52 consultation responses were received from schools, other local authority providers and private operators providing a self assessment of pitch quality and suitability of their existing facilities. Figure 3.7 provides an illustration of the proportion of pitches within rated as good, acceptable, poor or with no suitable facilities. The consultation responses from pitch operators in Knowsley broadly align with the feedback from local clubs with 65% of pitches considered to be acceptable or better. However it should be noted that not all of these pitches are currently available for community use (only 62% of the survey responses were for sites with restricted access).

Figure 3.7: Consultation on Pitch Quality - Providers for All Pitches



3.78. Figure 3.8 and Figure 3.9 below, offer an indication of the pitch quality proportions of pitches that are and are not currently available for community use. This could provide an early insight into whether there is the possibility of existing dormant supply being capable of meeting increased demand, if additional community uses could be secured.

Figure 3.8: Consultation on Pitch Quality – Providers for Pitches with Community Use

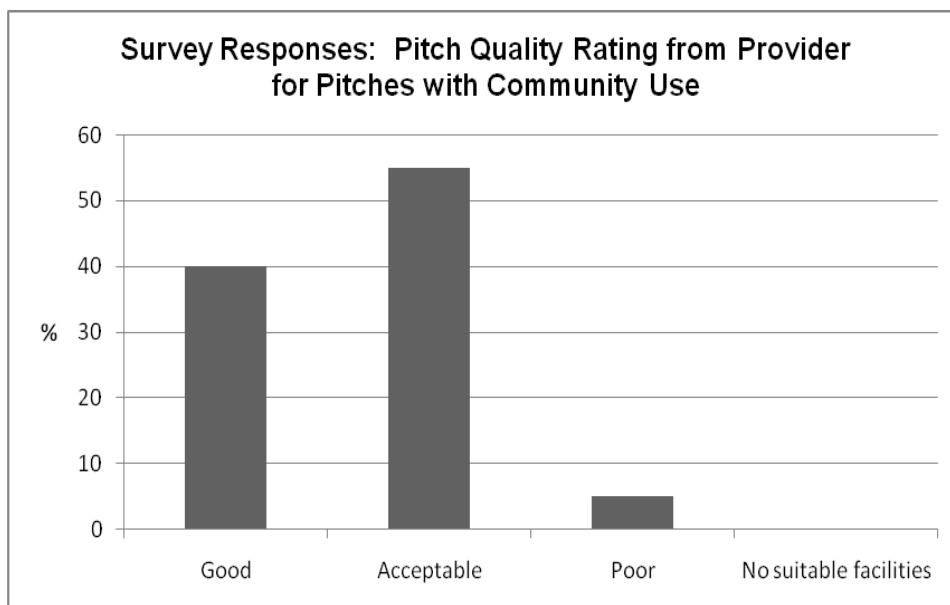
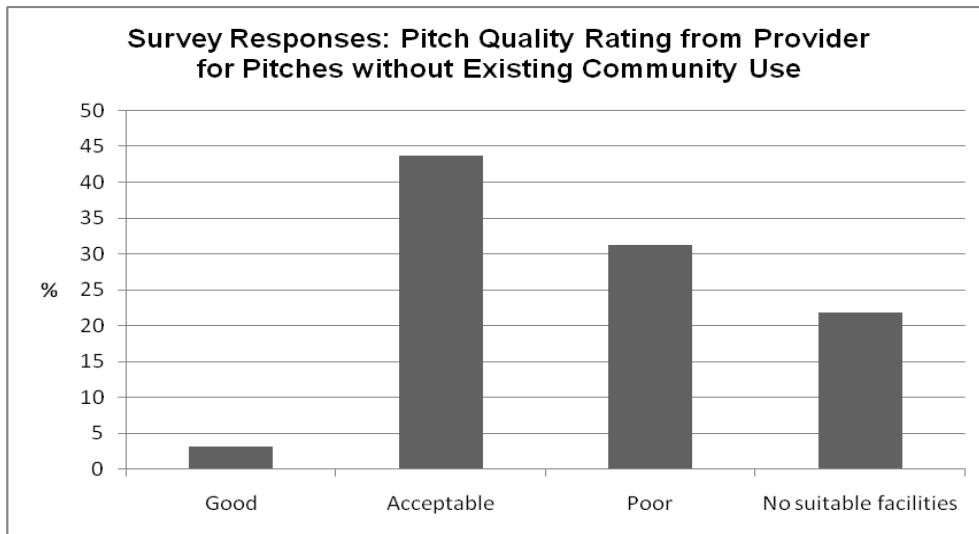


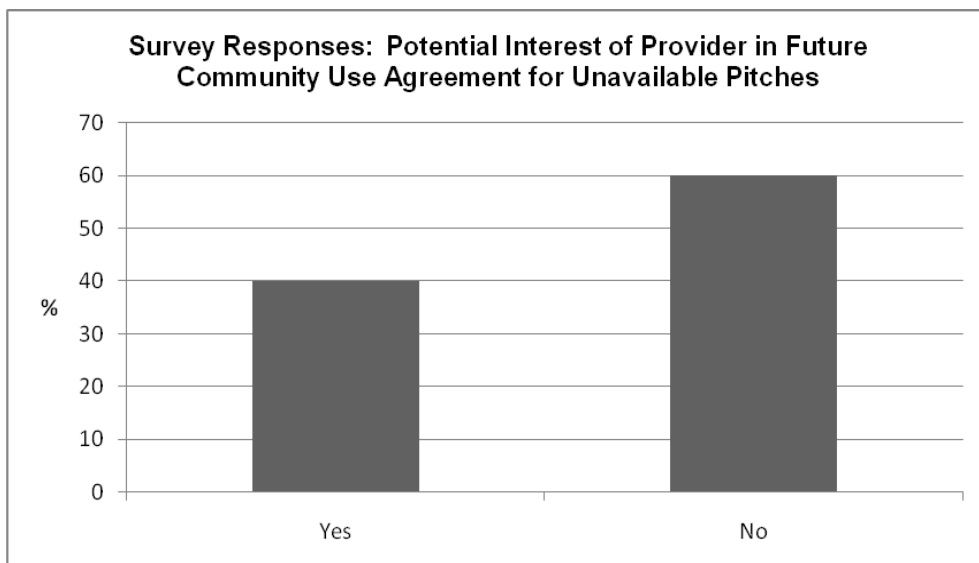
Figure 3.9: Consultation on Pitch Quality - Providers for Pitches with No Existing Community Use



3.79. When comparing Figures 3.8 and 3.9, it is clear that the quality of pitches that are currently unavailable for community is generally worse than pitches available for community use. This is noting that 53% of responses for providers of facilities not available for community use indicated that their provision is poor or currently unsuitable for use, compared to only 5% of providers of facilities available for community use. This suggests that significant investment would be required to enhance the dormant provision, if additional community use could be secured on some sites.

3.80. Figure 3.10 below, illustrates the responses from pitch providers facilities (all schools) which are not currently in community use as to whether they would consider a future community use agreement.

Figure 3.10: Consultation with Providers regarding Potential for Future Community Use Agreement for Unavailable Pitches



3.81. On the basis of the responses within Figure 3.10, it appears that there is some potential additional supply that could be provided through securing additional community use agreements with schools, with 40% of responses having expressed interest. However a degree of caution must be applied in terms of actual numbers, given the survey did not have a full response rate. Nevertheless, the possibility of supplementary supply from this source will be considered with formulating recommendations and future strategies in Sections 5 and 6.

Section 4:

Analysis of Demand

Analysis of Demand

Overview of Current Teams within Knowsley

- 4.1. The audit of demand identified all formal teams playing in organised competition (e.g. leagues) that require regular access to facilities, as well as fixture dates and times. This information can be combined with the audit of supply in terms of the number and type of pitches required at peak times to assess the current level of demand and carrying capacity through the Playing Pitch Model (PPM) and utilising Team Generation Rates (TGRs) associated to existing population demographics within Knowsley.
- 4.2. For pitch sports there is an accepted need for players to travel to games. Existing evidence and established local standards require outdoor sports provision within a 15 minute travel time from their home by car. However there is an expectation that facilities remain relatively local to Community Areas to ensure the provision is sustainable for local residents. This is noting that available transport networks are important for residents without use of a car to ensure they can access the facilities. In this regard, some issues remain in Knowsley with regard to the ability of some residents to travel between Community Areas. Analysis at a Knowsley level alone would imply (perhaps incorrectly) that all residents are willing and able to travel to pitches. The demand information is therefore identified alternatively at a Community Area level, which aligns with supply information in Section 3.
- 4.3. Of the main pitch sports identified by Sport England only four of the sports have formal teams that are based in and/or play in Knowsley; Football, Cricket, Rugby League and Hockey. The number of these teams by sport and age group, along with the Community Area from which the majority of members are drawn are set out in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1: Knowsley Teams by Sport and Location

Sport	Community Area				Knowsley Total
	Kirkby	Huyton	Prescot, Whiston & Cronton	Halewood	
Cricket	0	9	0	0	9
Adult Football	15	15	10	7	47
Junior Football	6	17	22	18	63
Mini Football	1	32	4	15	52
Hockey	2	0	7	0	9
Rugby League	0	0	4	0	4
Rugby Union	0	0	0	0	0
Total	24	73	47	40	184

- 4.4. With regard to Table 4.1, the full team list compiled as part of the local audit is available at view at Appendix I, which includes information relating to age group, gender, current league, home venue, number of home matches per season (based upon 2010/11) and regular match day / time obtained via surveys, league fixtures and pitch booking records. There is also a more general summary by local club provided in terms of the specific sports in subsequent sub-sections with specific age group and gender breakdowns for the individual sports included at Tables 4.17, 4.29, 4.43 and 4.52.
- 4.5. A summary of the key findings for Knowsley derived from Appendix I is included within Table 4.2 below which provides a breakdown of existing teams at a Knowsley level by age group and gender.

Table 4.2: Knowsley Teams by Sport and Age Group

Age Group	Total	Sport				
		Cricket	Football	Hockey	Rugby League	Rugby Union
Veteran	8	0	7	1	0	0
Womens Veteran	1	0	0	1	0	0
Adult	49	6	36	5	2	0
Womens Adult	3	0	0	2	1	0
Under 18s	2	0	2	0	0	0
Under 17s	2	0	2	0	0	0
Under 16s	7	0	7	0	0	0
Womens Under 16s	1	0	0	0	1	0
Under 15s	10	1	9	0	0	0
Under 14s	5	0	5	0	0	0
Under 13s	15	1	14	0	0	0
Under 12s	17	0	17	0	0	0
Under 11s	12	1	11	0	0	0
Under 10s	18	0	18	0	0	0
Under 9s	12	0	12	0	0	0
Under 8s	11	0	11	0	0	0
Under 7s	11	0	11	0	0	0
Total	184	9	162	9	4	0

- 4.6. The key trends identified from Table 4.2 above are as follows;
- Cricket:
 - Low number of teams in total.
 - Majority of adult teams (66%).
 - No existing female specific teams in any age group.
 - Small number of existing junior teams (3 in total).
 - Football:
 - High number of teams in total.
 - Low proportion of adult and veteran teams (29%) relative to active age group (16 – 45 years).

- High proportion of junior teams (39%) given age range (10 – 15 years), with a generally consistent distribution between Under 11s and Under 13s, but an evident reduction from Under 14s upwards by around 50% on average suggesting declining conversion rates.
- High proportion of mini teams (32%) relative to age range (6-9 years) with a consistent distribution which broadly aligns with the range of junior teams and therefore suggests a consistent conversion rate.
- No existing female specific teams in any age group (mini teams up to Under 10s are mixed).
- Hockey:
 - Low number of teams in total.
 - All adult or veteran teams (9 in total).
 - Higher proportion of male teams (66%) relative to female teams (33%).
- Rugby League:
 - Low number of teams in total (4 teams).
 - Higher proportion of adult / veteran teams(75%) than junior teams (25%).
 - Equal proportion of male (50%) and female (50%) teams.
- Rugby Union:
 - No existing teams.

4.7. To support the above, supplementary tables with information relating to individual Community Areas are provided in Appendix I, with the key locational trends as follows;

- Kirkby:
 - No existing cricket, rugby league or rugby union teams.
 - All existing teams are male (or mixed below Under 10s) - no female specific teams.
 - High proportion of adult / veteran football teams (68%) relative to junior (27%) and mini football teams (5%), which represent in a cumulative a poor rate of 14% of the overall Knowsley total relative to population distribution (28%).
 - Hockey teams (2) are both for adult males and represent 22% of the Knowsley total.
- Huyton:
 - No existing hockey, rugby league or rugby union teams.
 - All existing teams are male (or mixed below Under 10s) – no female specific teams.
 - All 9 of the existing cricket teams in Knowsley play within this Community Area.
 - Moderate proportion of adult / veteran football teams (23%) and junior teams (26%), relative to a higher proportion of mini teams (52%), which cumulatively represent a rate of 41% of the Knowsley total which is marginally above its population distribution.
- Prescot, Whiston and Cronton:
 - No existing cricket or rugby union teams.

- Majority of all teams are male specific (80%), with a lower proportion of mixed teams (9%) and female specific teams (11%).
 - Moderate proportion of existing adult / veteran football teams (28%), relative to a high proportion of junior teams (61%) and a low proportion of mini teams (11%), which cumulatively represent 22% of the Knowsley total which is above its relative population distribution (18%).
 - Hockey teams (7 in total) are all adult teams, but have a proportionate gender split of; male specific (57%) and female specific (43%), cumulatively these comprise 77% of the Knowsley total which far exceeds its relative population distribution.
 - All 4 of the existing rugby league teams in Knowsley play within this Community Area.
- Halewood:
 - No existing cricket, hockey, rugby league or rugby union teams.
 - All existing teams are male (or mixed below Under 10s) – no female specific teams.
 - Low proportion of existing adult / veteran football teams (17%), relative to a high proportion of junior teams (45%) and mini teams (38%), which cumulatively represent a rate of 25% of the Knowsley total which is far in excess of its population distribution (14%).

4.8. With regard to the summaries in Paragraphs 4.6 and 4.7, there is clear value in identifying age and gender breakdowns, and spatial differences in the context of identifying potential deficiencies, which can inform targeted improvements relating to quality or accessibility that are proving a barrier to participation. For example, an absence of segregated changing facilities in any area may reduce junior / mini and female participation and reduced pitch quality / availability can affect participation levels across all age groups.

4.9. The general trends identified however must be treated with caution, as they only provide an initial overview of potential issues which is far from definitive other than as a general indication. In this regard, the study needs to utilise the calculation of team generation rates, to provide an overall assessment within the context of displaced demand, latent demand and growth potential before any definitive conclusions can be drawn. This is to ensure any findings are sufficiently robust to utilise in the context of sports specific appraisal and assist the formulation of associated strategies.

Displaced Demand

4.10. It is important to note that several teams associated to areas outside of Knowsley have been included within the figures in Table 4.1 as the home ground they are based is located within Knowsley. There are also a number of teams not included, which although having a majority of Knowsley residents registered with the club, were identified as travelling outside of the Borough to use the facilities within neighbouring districts. This suggests

both the possibility of latent demand for pitches within Knowsley, and displaced demand due to a willingness to travel for suitable facilities given the degree of overlap between districts which is not restricted by Local Authority boundaries.

- 4.11. In addition to the above, there are also general spatial patterns of displacement from Knowsley's Community Areas. This seems to reflect both the absence of a Knowsley specific league covering the whole Borough and the consequent association of local clubs to leagues which are either based or overlap with neighbouring districts.
- 4.12. Whilst the subsequent assessment relating to individual sports will investigate in more detail the reasons for displacement to neighbouring districts, research and surveys suggest that the common patterns are geographical in nature as summarised below;
- Clubs drawing members from Kirkby Community Area are most likely to displace to pitches in Liverpool, Sefton and West Lancashire.
 - Clubs drawing members from Huyton Community Area are most likely to displace to pitches in Liverpool.
 - Clubs drawing members from Prescot, Whiston and Cronton Community Area are most likely to displace to pitches in St. Helens and Halton.
 - Clubs drawing members from Halewood Community Area are most likely to displace to pitches in Liverpool.
- 4.13. However it should be noted that the levels of displaced demand are likely to vary significantly between Knowsley's Community Areas and also relative to different sports. Tables 4.3 – 4.5, provide a summary of both the estimated displacement of teams from Knowsley to other surrounding districts, and vice versa, and the estimated net team displacement for Knowsley overall, the individual Community Areas and by each sport type.

Table 4.3: Estimated Team Displacement from Knowsley

Sport	Community Area				Knowsley Total
	Kirkby	Huyton	Prescot, Whiston & Cronton	Halewood	
Cricket	0	0	-4	0	-4
Adult Football	-4	-1	-4	0	-9
Junior Football	-7	-7	-1	-5	-20
Mini Football	-6	-2	-2	0	-10
Hockey	0	0	0	0	0
Rugby League	0	0	0	0	0
Rugby Union	0	0	0	0	0
Total	-17	-10	-11	-5	-43

- 4.14. Table 4.3 provides an indication that the overall displacement of demand from Knowsley is 43 teams in total; with the number of junior football teams within Huyton and cricket teams in Prescott, Whiston & Cronton in particular requiring further investigation in terms of latent demand.
- 4.15. In contrast, Table 4.4 indicates the existing teams displaced into Knowsley, with a detailed breakdown of teams by location available at Appendix J.

Table 4.4: Estimated Teams Displaced to Knowsley

Sport	Community Area				Knowsley Total
	Kirkby	Huyton	Prescot, Whiston & Cronton	Halewood	
Cricket	0	0	0	0	0
Adult Football	+4	+5	+3	0	12
Junior Football	+2	0	+2	+5	9
Mini Football	+1	0	0	+2	3
Hockey	+2	0	0	0	2
Rugby League	0	0	+4	0	4
Rugby Union	0	0	0	0	0
Total	9	5	9	7	30

- 4.16. The above table indicates that the overall displacement of demand from other areas into Knowsley is lower than outward displacement with only 30 teams in total. Of particular significance is the number of rugby league teams in Prescott, Whiston & Cronton which represents 100% of those currently playing within Knowsley, which arises from the close proximity of Parklands Sports Club with the Halton boundary, the area from which it accommodates surplus demand.
- 4.17. Table 4.5 on the following page provides an overview of the net team displacement from Knowsley, with 17 teams in total across all sports. However there is significant variation in terms of both individual sports and relative to Community Areas, with only cricket (4 teams), junior football (11 teams) and mini football (7 teams) at a Knowsley level having net displacement. This information provides a clear indication of the sports where potential latent demand remains unsatisfied that will need to be accounted for in the PPM / TGR calculations. The remaining categories have no net displacement, which implies that there is limited existing unsatisfied demand for each based on current circumstances. This includes evidence of headroom in existing supply being utilised to account for surplus demand arising in other districts. Nevertheless latent demand cannot be easily discounted on this basis, without regard to participation rates.

Table 4.5: Estimated Net Team Displacement in Knowsley

Sport	Community Area				Knowsley Total
	Kirkby	Huyton	Prescot, Whiston & Cronton	Halewood	
Cricket	0	0	-4	0	-4
Adult Football	0	+4	-1	0	+3
Junior Football	-5	-7	+1	0	-11
Mini Football	-5	-2	-2	+2	-7
Hockey	+2	0	0	0	+2
Rugby League	0	0	+4	0	+4
Rugby Union	0	0	0	0	0
Total	-8	-5	-2	+2	-13

4.18. In addition to the above, when considering the data in Table 4.5 at a Community Area level, it is clear that the general trends for each sport as identified for Knowsley are not replicated in all areas, with Kirkby and Huyton having significantly higher amounts of net displacement. In this regard, it should be noted that the principle net team displacement for each sport occurs in the following Community Areas;

- Cricket (Prescot, Whiston & Cronton only)
- Adult Football (Prescot, Whiston and Cronton only)
- Junior Football (Kirkby and Huyton)
- Mini Football (Kirkby, Huyton, and Prescot, Whiston & Cronton)

4.19. As a consequence of the spatial variations identified, it will be important to account for net displacement at a Community Area level within the PPM / TGR calculations, rather than Knowsley alone.

4.20. A degree of caution does however need to be taken in terms of the extent to which displacement is considered to be a definitive indicator of latent demand or an absence of pitches that are suitable or available. This is noting that both displacement and latent demand are influenced by a variety of different and often individual circumstances, hence the need to compare participation rates with benchmarks later in the report. The full list of displaced teams relating to Table 4.3 – 4.5 is available to view within Appendix J.

4.21. In terms of the specific outliers of displacement, examples of the main identifiable influences creating displacement have been identified in the Community Areas as follows;

- 4 cricket teams associated to Prescot, Whiston & Cronton are displaced due to the presence of established facilities at the Prescot & Odyssey

Cricket Club which lies within St. Helens administrative area, but has a shared catchment area as it is in close proximity to the Knowsley boundary.

- 1 junior football team in Kirkby, 4 mini football teams in Huyton, 2 mini football teams in Prescott, Whiston & Cronton and 2 junior football teams in Halewood are displaced due to an affiliation with the Belle Vale Junior League, a dual venue league structure with all fixtures played at Barnham Drive and Caldway Drive in Liverpool.
- 3 junior football teams in Huyton and 1 junior football team in Halewood are displaced due to an affiliation with the Springfield Junior League, a dual venue league structure with all fixtures played at the Bill Shankly Playing Fields and Walkers Playing Fields in Liverpool.
- 5 mini football teams in Kirkby and 2 mini football teams in Huyton are displaced due to an affiliation with the Walton & Kirkdale Junior League, a single venue league structure with all fixtures played at Long Lane in Liverpool.
- 5 junior football teams for women in Huyton and 1 junior football team for women in Prescott, Whiston & Cronton are displaced due to affiliation to the Liverpool CFA Girls League, a single venue league structure with all fixtures played at Heron Eccles in Liverpool.

4.22. The information relating to the displacement of football teams in particular, identifies the influence that the potential strategy may have on the supply / demand balance, for example the establishment of a Knowsley specific league could claw back existing displacement and / or generate increased demand from other areas. This emphasises the need to consider a degree of headroom supply above PPM / TGR forecast calculations to provide flexibility for future demand, notwithstanding potential adjustments for displacement and latent demand being included as team equivalents.

4.23. In contrast, the example of established displacement to facilities such as the Prescott & Odyssey Cricket Club which remain close to the Knowsley boundary, suggests there is a need for a realistic and proportionate approach when planning to accommodate existing displacement. As the need for flexible headroom in the supply to accommodate a change in demand requirements (i.e, the closure of the existing facility), must be balanced against the prospect of the displaced demand ever fully being clawed back from the existing facility. In these circumstances, it would appear reasonable to consider the cricket demand in Prescott, Whiston and Cronton to be latent demand (in the absence of any other teams) when assessing against existing supply.

4.24. Consultation with local clubs and additional research identified minimal displacement within Knowsley's Community Areas, with only sparse examples of movement between these areas, which suggests the supply and demand balance within different areas of Knowsley is a lot more self-contained. Table 4.6 below, summarises the displacement of demand between Community Areas;

Table 4.6: Estimated Team Displacement between Community Areas

Sport	Community Area			
	Kirkby	Huyton	Prescot, Whiston & Cronton	Halewood
Cricket	0	0	0	0
Adult Football	0	-2	0	+2
Junior Football	-1	+2	-1	0
Mini Football	0	0	0	0
Hockey	0	0	0	0
Rugby League	0	0	0	0
Rugby Union	0	0	0	0
Total	-1	0	-1	2

4.25. Although the movement of teams between Community Areas is minor and limited to adult and junior football only, appropriate adjustments as team equivalents will be made to the PPM / TGR calculations in the interest of accuracy. The full list of estimated team displacement between Community Areas is available to view within Appendix J.

Latent Demand

4.26. As mentioned previously, displacement is only a single indicator and influence upon latent demand that must be factored into the PPM / TGR calculations to ensure a robust forecast.

4.27. ‘Latent demand’ can be described as demand for a pitch that is suppressed or is not met, and can be positively or negatively influenced as follows:

- an absence of available pitches of the required type, size or quality to meet peak demand, or an absence of appropriate ancillary facilities;
- high costs of hiring/leasing facilities can prevent teams from forming (or hinder the long-term sustainability of existing clubs), particularly if it compares unfavourably with the pricing policies of neighbouring authorities;
- impact of mini-sports in improving long-term increases in adult play through enhanced retention rates;
- an increase in profile of school sport can influence more young people to play team sports beyond school hours and school years.
- national sporting success, events and initiatives can influence an increase in sports participation (i.e, London Olympics is likely to have a positive effect);
- lifestyle changes and other activities competing for leisure time/spend, including other forms of sport may influence overall demand for formal pitch sports, and;
- a shortage of match officials.

4.28. An attempt to assess the reasons for and levels of latent demand in Knowsley was undertaken. This was primarily through consultation with

sports clubs who were asked to identify issues with provision. Only a single junior football club based in Huyton specifically expressed unmet demand; however as detailed previously in Section 3 a number of comments were made in relation to poor quality pitches and facilities.

- 4.29. Due to the number of influences upon latent demand, it is difficult to apply a numeric value adjustment to the PPM / TGR calculations which would accurately capture the driving influences and their intensity. As a consequence it is considered more appropriate to adjust for only carrying capacity and displacement in calculations, whilst ensuring that latent demand derived from participation rates drives the need for appropriate headroom and informs considerations of the impact of sports development in future forecasting.
- 4.30. Individual assessments using comparative benchmarks relative to demand identified through TGRs for each pitch sport will assess the extent to which there is existing latent demand at a Knowsley and Community Area level, together with its likely influence on recommendations and strategy.

Team Equivalent Calculations

- 4.31. The calculation of team equivalents is essential to address issues in Knowsley which influence the quality and temporal demand of pitches, such as school use of facilities and training use.
- 4.32. With regard to the above, the generic calculation model within the '*Towards a Level Playing Field*' document was noted. However it was considered that a more bespoke model would need to be adapted. This is noting the specific circumstances of Knowsley in terms of the:
- adaptability of adult / junior pitches for different sports;
 - survey evidence of varying and inconsistent training venues for clubs (including a high proportion regularly using synthetic and indoor facilities);
 - displacement of existing demand;
 - variation in levels of availability of sites for public use, and;
 - separate adjustments to carrying capacity to avoid double counting of allowances for informal and training use already accounted for within pitch quality assessments.
- 4.33. To reflect the above, the resultant calculation model is based upon team equivalents related to hours of use (based on a 1 team equivalent relative to every 2 hours) informed by survey information from schools and clubs, together with site evidence of levels of informal use and local data on home games as per Appendix I.
- 4.34. The model and the associated calculation evidence is detailed within Appendix J. In this regard, Table 4.7 on the following page summarises the team equivalents added to the PPM model by sport and location.

Table 4.7: Team Equivalent Summary

Sport	Community Area				Knowsley
	Kirkby	Huyton	Prescot, Whiston & Cronton	Halewood	
Adult Cricket	0	4	4	0	8
Junior Cricket	0	2	2	1	5
Adult Football	4	7	4	1	16
Junior Football	13	14	10	2	39
Mini Football	5	7	5	2	19
Hockey	0	0	0	0	0
Rugby League	0	0	0	0	0
Rugby Union	0	0	0	0	0

**Use of synthetic pitches for training and school use are excluded due to durability of surface*

- 4.35. The information in Table 4.7 primarily reflects the predominant use of the high quality publicly available facilities at Centres for Learning and other sports hubs such as Huyton KGV for school use and training, primarily focused around junior football and cricket. In this regard, appropriate adjustments have also been made to effects upon adult age groups in view of evidence through surveys of the use of these grass pitches for school purposes and training. The team equivalents also include adjustments for displacement in accordance with Appendix J.
- 4.36. Further to the above, it should be noted that the nature of recent restructuring through the Building Schools for the Future / Primary Future Schooling programme provides an indication that the scale and format of school provision is unlikely to change significantly during the 15 year period covered by the study forecasts. As a consequence for the purposes of the study it is assumed that the team equivalents for school use are likely to remain fairly static in the future with no further uplifts in team equivalents required for the future projections through the PPM model.

PPM Pitch Sport Calculations – Knowsley Overview

- 4.37. The Sport England toolkit, and the detailed information contained within the PPM toolkit used for Knowsley, allows analysis to be undertaken by Community Area and by individual sport. Each Community Area has been assessed using the number of teams based there for each sport (with adjustments made in the form of team equivalents to reflect latent demand), and the supply of pitches (adjusted for carrying capacity). In following this approach, calculations can be made taking into account a particular community's need. In this context, the sub-section focuses on whether the demand for pitches generated on a Community Area basis can be met

within the existing areas, with subsequent sub-sections providing more detailed information and analysis for each pitch sport.

- 4.38. The PPM calculations take into account only those pitches with secured community use, in line with Sport England guidance. Furthermore, it should also be noted that an assumption has been made that all football, hockey and rugby league teams play a home match every fortnight, therefore a multiplication factor of 0.5 home matches per week for each team has been applied. However, for cricket teams it has been identified that many teams play home matches more frequent than every fortnight (i.e. mid-week matches, ground hire, etc), hence a higher figure of 0.7 per week is utilised. These assumptions have been informed by information obtained from a combination of survey responses from clubs and league secretaries, including league schedules for previous seasons.
- 4.39. The calculations within this section relating to temporal demand are derived from the detailed information within Appendix I. In this regard, it is accepted that the figures are approximate and subject to change weekly, which generates a requirement to consider the need for headroom capacity as part of the recommendations and strategies in Sections 5 and 6 to accommodate any fluctuations. All figures represent an upward rounding of calculations which provides a conservative position relative to outcomes in the detailed PPM calculations which are available to view at Appendix K. This in particular addresses the situation that partial pitch use as identified through the calculations cannot occur and removes the potential for under-estimation.
- 4.40. The PPM calculations have been adapted for cricket, hockey and rugby to reflect evidence that these sports in Knowsley utilise the same pitches for adult and junior age groups at present.

Table 4.8: Current PPM Supply / Peak Demand Analysis Summary

Sport	Community Area				Knowsley
	Kirkby	Huyton	Prescot, Whiston & Cronton	Halewood	
Cricket	0	+1	+3	+1	+5
Adult Football	+9	+9	+8	+4	+37
Junior Football	+5	+17	+7	-1	+29
Mini Football	+4	-2	+4	+3	+14
Hockey	+1	+2	0	+1	+5
Rugby League	0	+1	-1	0	0
Rugby Union	0	0	0	0	0

* Knowsley total can differ as peak demand does not occur simultaneously between areas

- 4.41. Table 4.8 identifies the extent to which the peak demand for sports pitches is being met in Knowsley's Community Areas. A positive figure indicates that there are surplus pitches relative to requirements for the number of teams (excluding latent demand), while a negative figure indicates that there are not enough pitches to meet peak demand. In this regard, it should be noted that peak demand within individual Community Areas reflects variation in temporal demand which does not occur at the same time, and therefore as a cumulative for each sport they do not generally equal peak periods of demand in Knowsley.
- 4.42. Table 4.9 below, indicates the variance in the periods of peak demand between different sports and community areas. This justifies consideration of addressing peak demand at a Community Area level and relative to individual pitch sports through the use of pitch based standards, rather than the existing approach of only land based standards for Knowsley.

Table 4.9: Current Peak Demand by Sport / Area

Sport	Community Area				Knowsley
	Kirkby	Huyton	Prescot, Whiston & Cronton	Halewood	
Cricket	N/A	Saturday (all), Sunday (all), Midweek (pm)	N/A	N/A	Saturday (all), Sunday (all), Midweek (pm)
Adult Football	Sunday (am)	Saturday (pm)	Sunday (am)	Sunday (am)	Sunday (am)
Junior Football	Sunday (am)	Saturday (am)	Sunday (am)	Sunday (am)	Sunday (am)
Mini Football	Saturday (am)	Saturday (am)	Saturday (am)	Sunday (am)	Saturday (am), Sunday (am)
Hockey	Saturday (pm)	N/A	Saturday (pm)	N/A	Saturday (pm)
Rugby League	N/A	N/A	Saturday (pm), Sunday (pm)	N/A	Saturday (pm), Sunday (pm)
Rugby Union	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

- 4.43. The key outcomes arising from the current PPM supply / demand analysis for Knowsley as per Tables 4.8 and 4.9 are:
- An existing oversupply of pitches for all sports at peak time in Knowsley, except for rugby league and rugby union where demand equals supply.

- A small existing oversupply of pitches for cricket at peak time (Saturday - all, Sunday - all, and Midweek - pm) in all areas except Kirkby (no existing provision) and Huyton where all matches are currently played.
- A large existing oversupply of pitches for adult football in all areas (except Halewood which has a smaller oversupply), and consistent peak demand (Sunday - am) except in Huyton (Saturday – pm).
- A large existing oversupply of pitches for junior football in Huyton and Prescott, Whiston & Cronton, with a smaller oversupply in Kirkby and a small under supply in Halewood. Peak demand in Knowsley (Sunday – am) is reflected in Kirkby, Prescott, Whiston & Cronton and Halewood, but differs in Huyton (Saturday – am).
- A small existing oversupply of pitches for mini football in all areas, except Huyton which has a small undersupply, with peak demand (Saturday – am, Sunday – am) split between highest demand in Halewood (Sunday – am), and alternatives in Kirkby, Huyton and Prescott, Whiston & Cronton (all Saturday – am).
- A small existing oversupply of pitches for hockey in all areas for peak demand (Saturday – pm), except Prescott, Whiston & Cronton where existing demand equals current supply.
- A small existing oversupply of rugby league pitches in Huyton and a small undersupply in Prescott, Whiston & Cronton, however the latter should have emphasis given it reflects peak demand in Knowsley (Saturday - pm, Sunday - pm) where all matches are currently played.
- There is no current supply or demand for rugby union within Knowsley.

4.44. Table 4.8 provides a snapshot of the current supply and demand balance in Knowsley. However that PPM calculation excludes latent demand and carrying capacity. Appropriate adjustments are therefore incorporated within Table 4.10 to show the extent to which peak demand for sports pitches is being met in Knowsley’s Community Areas.

Table 4.10: Current PPM Supply / Peak Demand Analysis Summary (adjusted for latent demand and carrying capacity)

Sport	Community Area				Knowsley*
	Kirkby	Huyton	Prescot, Whiston & Cronton	Halewood	
Cricket	0	-1	+1	0	+1
Adult Football	+9	+8	+8	+5	+33
Junior Football	+1	+15	+7	-1	+23
Mini Football	+4	+4	+5	+6	+19
Hockey	+3	+4	+4	+2	+13
Rugby League	0	+1	-1	0	0
Rugby Union	0	0	0	0	0

- 4.45. As per Table 4.9 previously, peak demand within individual Community Areas reflects variation in temporal demand that does not occur at the same time, and therefore as a cumulative for each sport they do not generally equal peak periods of demand in Knowsley.
- 4.46. When comparing Tables 4.8 and 4.10, it is clear that the predominant influence of the adjustment for latent demand and carrying capacity relates to cricket due to the limited scale of existing supply and demand. This means that reductions in carrying capacity due to school use and team displacement represents a significant proportion of overall demand. This is reflected in the change in position to peak demand in all areas and the creation of a related small undersupply in Huyton, a loss of oversupply in Halewood and a significant reduction of oversupply in Prescot, Whiston & Cronton.
- 4.47. In contrast to the above, although there is a much higher addition of team equivalents through adjustment relative to football (particularly for junior and mini forms of the game due to school use) the changes relative to peak supply and demand are minor. This is noting that team displacement and carrying capacity adjustments remain proportionally low compared to the overall demand and relative oversupply positions.
- 4.48. In addition to the above, it is also apparent that for hockey and mini-soccer in particular, the initial positions in Table 4.8 were extremely misleading in not accounting for pitch quality and different intensity of use. Multiple games can be played in a single temporal time period on an individual pitch for hockey (2 per session for hockey with unlimited capacity due to synthetic surface) and mini football (3 per session per pitch or maximum 9 per week for mini football) reflecting a single team equivalent of other age groups. Furthermore, surplus adult / junior pitches can reasonably be utilised using quarter and half pitch arrangements for mini football. This suggests that there may actually be greater surpluses of provision given the comparative uplifts in position between Tables 4.8 and 4.10 resulting from the necessary adjustments relative to carrying capacity.
- 4.49. In association with Table 4.10, the resultant changes to peak demand are displayed in Table 4.11 (highlighted in yellow) on the following page. When comparing Tables 4.9 and 4.11, the only significant change relates to hockey and mini football, where adjustments alter the localised period of peak demand. This is noting the low levels of displacement, together with latent demand arising from school use being accommodated outside of the periods of peak demand. No latent demand or team displacement for rugby league or rugby union were identified, therefore there are no adjustments to either of these sports.

Table 4.11: Current Peak Demand by Sport / Area (adjusted for latent demand and carrying capacity)

Sport	Community Area				Knowsley
	Kirkby	Huyton	Prescot, Whiston & Cronton	Halewood	
Cricket	N/A	Sunday (all)	Saturday (all), Sunday (all), Midweek (pm)	Midweek (all)	Sunday (all)
Adult Football	Sunday (am)	Saturday (pm)	Sunday (am)	Sunday (am)	Sunday (am)
Junior Football	Sunday (am)	Saturday (am)	Sunday (am)	Sunday (am)	Sunday (am)
Mini Football	Sunday (am)	Saturday (am)	Saturday (am)	Sunday (am)	Sunday (am)
Hockey	Saturday (pm)	N/A	Saturday (all)	N/A	Saturday (pm)
Rugby League	N/A	N/A	Saturday (pm), Sunday (pm)	N/A	Saturday (pm), Sunday (pm)
Rugby Union	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

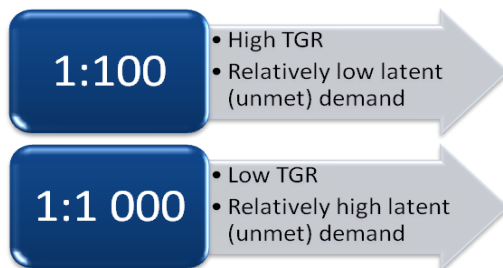
- 4.50. In consideration of the outcomes of the current PPM model, a degree of caution must be undertaken and more detailed assessment will be required relating to more site specific information. This is noting that a limitation of the PPM model is that whilst it effectively assesses demand for pitches and the physical demand upon pitches it does not take into account a number of other factors that limit the available supply to meet peak demand associated to individual pitch sites. For example, many sites have limited changing facilities and this could limit the number of teams capable of using a site at the same time. Similarly National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) regulations advises against junior teams sharing changing facilities with adult teams. This can cause problems for scheduling of fixtures, particularly for playing pitch "hub" approach where pitches for an area are concentrated on fewer sites with a greater number of pitches on each site, unless appropriate facilities are available.
- 4.51. It is also noted that the PPM model is based on the assumption that teams play on pitches which meet the NGB of sport recommendations for their age category. However as per reference in the team equivalent section, the Council is aware that Knowsley has a number of adult pitches which are also suitable for use by junior football teams due to their dimensions. This means that the scale of oversupply of adult pitches may not be entirely

accurate and conversely any undersupply of junior football pitches (for example in Halewood) may be slightly overestimated.

- 4.52. The influences of the issues identified above are considered in more detail within subsequent individual pitch sport assessment and strategy sections.

Predicting the Future through Team Generation Rates (TGR)

- 4.53. TGRs can be used as a guide when predicting future demand and are calculated by dividing the number of teams (by type) within the study area by the area population. The TGR for each team type is the estimated number of residents within the age group required to generate one team. The derived ratios can then be applied to projected population increases to assess future pitch requirements.
- 4.54. Calculating TGRs enables appropriate comparison of participation to be made between different areas where similar studies have been undertaken and can indicate potential latent demand of a population relative to national trends that otherwise are not perceptible from indicators such as team displacement. This in turn can then inform appropriate adjustments for future demand projections to account for potential future growth in participation relative to individual sports, alongside evidence from NGBs and local sports development plans.
- 4.55. The following examples clarify what different TGRs could indicate;



- 4.56. The above general figures are however only a guide and do not specify the sport or refer to local conditions.

Current TGR Baseline

- 4.57. To provide an accurate basis for future projections, it is important to understand current Knowsley TGRs in terms of how they compare and also benchmark Knowsley TGRs with other areas. This enables assessment of the level of latent demand capacity which could be potentially available and should therefore be considered in planning for future growth.
- 4.58. The base assumption is that current TGRs do not change over time although clearly there are trends in every sport. For example, the national popularity of football will mean that it will almost always have the highest

TGR, whereas hockey usually has the lowest. There are also regional variations with regard to other sports such as rugby league and rugby union that will need to be considered.

- 4.59. Table 4.12 below indicates the cumulative TGR for Knowsley and its Community Areas.

Table 4.12: All Sports Current TGR by Area

Analysis Areas	All Sport Average
Knowsley	1:635
Kirkby	1:977
Huyton	1:740
PWC	1:329
Halewood	1:543

- 4.60. The above table provides an indication of the spatial variation of sports participation within Knowsley, and suggests that the Community Areas with lower proportionate population (Prescot, Whiston & Cronton, and Halewood) have higher percentage participation rate. However this generalisation across all sports does not provide an accurate indication of the spatial variation in demand relating to individual sports.
- 4.61. Tables 4.13 - 4.16 identify the current TGRs for individual sports in Knowsley and its Community Areas in the context of Liverpool City Region and national averages. The full TGR calculation tables are included at Appendix L.

Cricket TGR

- 4.62. Cricket has historically been a niche sport within Knowsley with only concentrated demand in limited areas around established facilities and little evidence of sustained growth in participation.
- 4.63. Table 4.13 indicates that Knowsley currently can only identify specific demand for cricket in the adult (male) and junior (boys) sub-categories.

Table 4.13: Knowsley Current TGR

Analysis Areas	Age Groups				Overall average (exc. mini)
	Adult - male	Adult - female	Junior-boys	Junior - girls	
Knowsley	1:3 681	-	1:862	-	1:5 052
Kirkby	-	-	-	-	-
Huyton	1:1 485	-	1:589	-	1:2 439
PWC	1:1 571	-	1:868	-	1:2 549
Halewood	-	-	1:984	-	1:13 310
LCR	1:1 729	-	1:641	-	
National	1:1 417	1:54 815	1:1 480	1:21 052	

- 4.64. The Knowsley TGR for adult (male) is significantly lower than the Liverpool City Region (LCR) and national averages due to the variation in spatial demand. This is noting no demand is currently identified in Kirkby or Halewood. In contrast, Huyton and Prescot, Whiston & Cronton have TGRs that are higher than the LCR average and marginally below the national average.
- 4.65. In terms of junior (boys) cricket, demand is higher than the national average at a Knowsley level, but is below the LCR average. There is however some variation in spatial demand, with Huyton having a significantly higher rate of demand (above the LCR average) and Kirkby having no current demand identified.
- 4.66. The absence of demand being identified for adult (female) and junior (girls) cricket will be considered further in the subsequent Individual Pitch Sport Assessment sub-sections relative to local and national trends to assess whether there is a requirement for future modelling of these age / gender groups.

Football TGR

- 4.67. Football has the highest participation rates of any sport within Knowsley at all age levels, although growth in demand has varied in recent times for the different age groups. This is noting that the Knowsley Playing Pitch Assessment and Strategy 2003⁴⁰ identified a decline in participation in adult football, which aligns with recent national trends.
- 4.68. Table 4.14 indicates that demand via TGR rates can be identified for all football sub-categories, except adult (female).

Table 4.14: Knowsley Current Football TGR

Analysis Areas	Age Groups					Overall average (exc. mini)
	Adult - male	Adult - female	Junior-boys	Junior - girls	Mini - mixed	
Knowsley	1:569	-	1:85	1:908	1:116	1:564
Kirkby	1:550	-	1:135	-	1:349	1:756
Huyton	1:679	-	1:143	1:438	1:79	1:722
PWC	1:457	-	1:43	1:921	1:197	1:359
Halewood	1:525	-	1:46	-	1:74	1:397
LCR	1:367	1:28 161	1:70	1:3 507	1:146	
National	1:330	1:8 537	1:78	1:842	1:431	

- 4.69. The Knowsley TGR rate for adult (male) football is high in terms of participation rates relative to other sports, but still remains below the LCR and national averages. In addition, there is a proportionally significant variation in spatial demand, with the highest current demand in Prescot,

⁴⁰ Knowsley MBC Playing Pitch Assessment and Strategy 2003 (Strategic Leisure, 2003)

Whiston & Cronton, with Halewood and Kirkby and Prescott remaining close to the Knowsley average and lowest current demand in Huyton. Nevertheless all Community Areas have participation rates significantly below the LCR and national averages, suggesting the potential for some latent demand.

- 4.70. No current demand was identified for adult (female) football due to the absence of teams located in Knowsley or evidence of displacement. As a consequence, a Knowsley specific TGR cannot be estimated. In these circumstances it is considered reasonable for participation rate comparison to inform the consideration of latent demand and potential growth rate forecasts.
- 4.71. The Knowsley TGR rate for adult (male) football is high in terms of participation rates comparative to other sports and is only marginally below the LCR and national averages. However at a Community Area level there is proportional variation in demand with Halewood and Prescott, Whiston & Cronton demonstrating extremely high demand (above LCR and national averages), whereas Huyton and Kirkby have much lower current demand (significantly below Knowsley, LCR and national averages).
- 4.72. In contrast, the Knowsley TGR rate for junior (girls) football is much lower but also far in excess of the LCR average which is driven by the existence of three clubs from Huyton and one from Prescott, Whiston and Cronton (currently displaced to facilities in Liverpool). However the overall rate for Knowsley and these Community Areas is still below the national average and there was no existing demand identified in either Kirkby or Halewood.
- 4.73. With regard to mini-football, the overall Knowsley TGR is high in terms of participation rates comparative to other sports, resulting in it being marginally above the LCR average and significantly above the national average. However at a Community Area level there is variation in demand and participation rates, with Halewood and Huyton driving the highest rates, whereas Prescott, Whiston and Cronton remains slightly above the Knowsley average and Kirkby is significantly lower.

Hockey TGR

- 4.74. Hockey in Knowsley has historically had comparatively high participation rates, although demand was always associated to a limited area around established facilities with little evidence of sustained growth in participation.
- 4.75. Table 4.15 indicates that Knowsley currently can only identify specific demand for hockey in the adult (male) and adult (female) sub-categories. The Knowsley TGR for adult (male) hockey is above both the Liverpool City Region (LCR) and national averages due to the variation in spatial demand. This is noting no demand is currently identified in Huyton or Halewood. However Kirkby and Prescott, Whiston & Cronton have TGRs which are higher than the LCR average and the national average.

Table 4.15: Knowsley Current Hockey TGR

Analysis Areas	Sub Groups				Overall average (exc. mini)
	Adult - male	Adult - female	Junior-boys	Junior - girls	
Knowsley	1:4 837	1:10 260	-	-	1:7 692
Kirkby	1:4 125	-	-	-	1:9 945
Huyton	-	-	-	-	-
PWC	1:1 763	1:1 257	-	-	1:1 698
Halewood	-	-	-	-	-
LCR	1:5 503	1:11 030	1:5 896	-	
National	1:7 595	1:10 292	1:4 239	1:5 115	

- 4.76. A similar trend is experienced with regard to demand for adult (female) hockey, which is again higher than the LCR and national averages at a Knowsley level. However this is driven by a comparatively high TGR for the Prescot, Whiston and Cronton Community Area, whereas no demand is identified in Kirkby, Huyton or Halewood.
- 4.77. The absence of demand being identified for junior (boys) and junior (girls) hockey will be considered further in the subsequent Individual Pitch Sport Assessment sub-sections relative to local and national trends to assess whether there is a requirement for future modelling of these age / gender groups.

Rugby League TGR

- 4.78. Rugby league participation in Knowsley has been sporadic and of limited duration during the regional nature of the sport. Teams have periodically been established in different Community Areas; however few have been sustained in the long term due to low participation rates.
- 4.79. In addition to the above, a Liverpool City Region average TGR could not be identified for rugby league or its constituent age groups, as a number of the associated authorities (i.e. Sefton and Wirral) have no existing demand.
- 4.80. Table 4.16 indicates that demand via TGR rates can be identified for all football sub-categories, except junior (boys). The Knowsley TGR for adult (male) rugby league is significantly below the national average and is influenced by a significant variation in spatial demand. This is noting that no demand is currently identified in Kirkby, Huyton or Halewood, whereas Prescot, Whiston & Cronton have a comparatively high TGR which is far above the national average. However this is more reflective of the Community Area's proximity to neighbouring areas of St. Helens and Halton which have high rugby league participation rates and associated displacement, than specific demand originating in Knowsley.

Table 4.16: Knowsley Current Rugby League TGR

Analysis Areas	Sub Groups				Overall average (exc. mini)
	Adult - male	Adult - female	Junior-boys	Junior - girls	
Knowsley	1:13 511	1:28 714	-	1:4 879	1:16 411
Kirkby	-	-	-	-	-
Huyton	-	-	-	-	-
PWC	1:2 351	1:4 950	-	1:809	1:2 817
Halewood	-	-	-	-	-
LCR	-	-	-	-	
National	1:5 078	1:47 626	1:657	1:5 078	

- 4.81. A similar trend is experienced with regard to demand for adult (female) rugby league and junior (girls), which is again higher than the national average at a Knowsley level. This is also influenced by a comparatively high TGR for the Prescot, Whiston and Cronton Community Area, with no demand identified in Kirkby, Huyton or Halewood.
- 4.82. The absence of demand for junior (boys) rugby league will be considered further in the subsequent Individual Pitch Sport Assessment sub-sections relative to local and national trends to assess whether there is a requirement for future modelling of these age / gender groups.

Rugby Union TGR

- 4.83. Rugby Union in Knowsley has no established demand and no existing clubs located in the Borough, therefore TGRs cannot be identified.
- 4.84. Influences upon locational variations in TGR and demand for all sports are considered in more detail as part of the subsequent Individual Pitch Sport Assessment sub-sections.

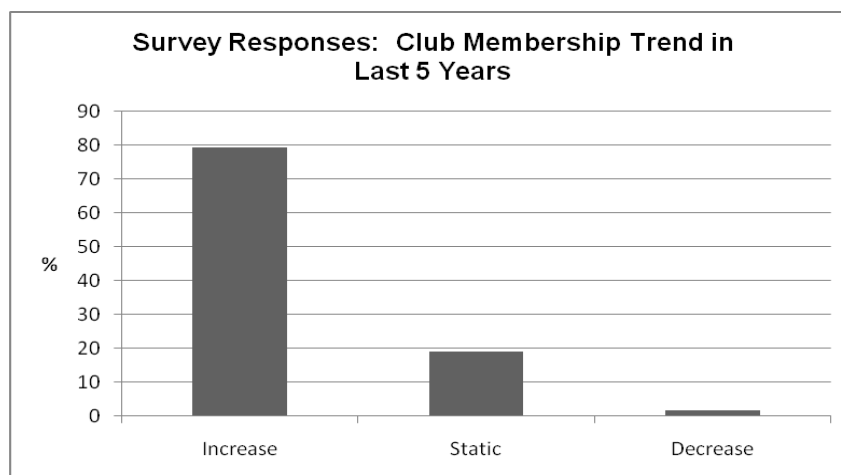
Future Population Projections and Demand Influences

- 4.85. Knowsley's population is ageing, with future population projections⁴¹ suggesting that the current active age population within Knowsley (ages 6 - 55) is anticipated to decline by 3% by 2028. This equates to a reduction of 2 992 people from the current active age population of 99 732 people, resulting in an estimated active age population of 96 740 people in 2028.
- 4.86. In view of the estimated reduction in current active age population, it is considered that any increase in demand for pitches that may arise in Knowsley will be more dependent upon local sports development priorities in promoting increased participation levels and addressing latent demand. This is noting that despite Knowsley's active age population having already

⁴¹ 2008 based sub-national population projections (ONS, 2010)

decreased by 3.7% since 2005 (from 103 600 at the time)⁴², club surveys suggest that there is a general trend of membership increase identified by 79% of overall responses, as displayed in Figure 4.1 below;

Figure 4.1: Consultation on Club Membership Trends



4.87. The trend of club membership increase however is not entirely supported by comparison with the TGR rates for different age groups identified in a previous Playing Pitch Assessment undertaken in 2003, which suggests the following specific trends at a Knowsley level⁴³;

- Adult football (male) has demonstrated a marginal decrease in demand through a decline in the TGR from 1:551 in 2003, to the current level of 1:569.
- Junior football (boys) has demonstrated a significant increase in demand through raising the TGR from 1:131 in 2003, to the current level of 1:85.
- Mini football (mixed) has demonstrated a minor increase in demand through raising the TGR from 1:216 in 2003, to the current level of 1:116.

4.88. The above information suggests that football development has been successful in increasing participation in Knowsley since 2003 for the three highest sub categories of the sport, despite a general trend of decrease of the active age population within Knowsley. These trends will need to be considered alongside information within NGB / local sport development plans and consultation with local and regional sports development officers, when formulating a figure for projected growth as part of the PPM model.

4.89. The trends for Knowsley in terms of the different age groups relative to 2003 data also correlate with the recent national trends as identified by the FA's current National Game Strategy⁴⁴.

⁴² 2008 based sub-national population projections (ONS, 2010)

⁴³ Community Area information not provided in the 2003 study

⁴⁴ 'Developing Football for Everyone' National Game Strategy 2011 – 2015 (FA, 2011)

- 4.90. The remaining sub-categories relating to football (i.e. adult female and junior female) and all other sports have much lower participation rates and therefore any variations between TGRs is less reliable as the basis for identification of trends. In these circumstances, it is intended that projected growth in participation applied to the PPM model will be solely influenced by NGB / local sport development plans and consultation with local and regional sports development officers.
- 4.91. Projected growth rates and the justification for those chosen will be presented in greater detail within the subsequent sub-sections.

Individual Pitch Sport Assessments

- 4.92. The following sub-sections will provide an assessment of the current (and anticipated future) demand for the main pitch sports within Knowsley utilising the PPM model and TGR calculations. To assist the interpretation of the methodological findings, it is essential that each sport is initially considered individually with a specific set of calculations for each drawn at both a Knowsley and Community Area level because, despite some similarities between sports, there are significant differences in patterns of play, levels of demand and existing supply.
- 4.93. The sports specific information will also be supplemented by a summary of the key issues affecting localised demand with regard to existing supply and patterns of play resulting from site assessments and consultation, to provide an appropriate basis for the formulation of recommendations and strategy within Sections 5 and 6.

Cricket

- 4.94. Cricket has historically has been a niche sport within Knowsley with only concentrated demand in limited areas based on TGR, with a total of 9 teams comprising the following age groups; 6No. adult teams and 3No. junior teams.
- 4.95. Cricket development in Knowsley is the responsibility of Lancashire County Cricket Board (LCB) in association with a Merseyside and South West Lancashire Cricket Development Management. There is also linkage to the Knowsley Council's Sports and Physical Development Team, the Knowsley Sports and Physical Activity Alliance (SPAA) and the Merseyside Sports Partnership (MSP).
- 4.96. The development priorities to grow and sustain participation influence the potential future growth rates of different types of cricket in Knowsley, alongside established national trends.
- 4.97. The key priorities for England Cricket Board (ECB) and LCB are to provide high quality opportunities to participate in cricket through provision of fine turf and non-turf pitches with outfielders and appropriate ancillary and support

facilities. There are no strategic club sites identified in Knowsley due to lack of well developed clubs and the proximity of strategic sites in adjacent Local Authorities.

- 4.98. In terms of existing circumstances, Knowsley does not currently have a specific league structure that is exclusive to its boundaries or covers all Community Areas within the Borough. However there are a number of sub-regional leagues which accommodate teams from the Knowsley area, which are listed in Table 4.17;

Table 4.17: Cricket Leagues including Knowsley teams

League Name	Type	Teams	Community Areas Served
Merseyside Cricket Competition	Adult	2	Huyton
Liverpool Business Houses League	Adult	1	Huyton
Southport & District Amateur Cricket League	Adult	2	Huyton
Merseyside Youth League	Junior	3	Huyton
Unaffiliated	Adult	1	Huyton

- 4.99. With reference to the above, the breakdown of existing Knowsley teams by age group associated is identified within Table 4.18 on the following page.

Table 4.18: Knowsley Cricket Teams by Age Group

Team Type	Age Group (Years)	Number of Teams
Adult cricket		
Adult football - male	18 - 55	6
Adult football - female	18 - 55	0
Total		6
Junior cricket		
Junior - male	Under 17	0
Junior - male	Under 15	1
Junior - male	Under 13	1
Junior - male	Under 11	1
Junior - female	Under 11 - 17	0
Total		3

- 4.100. In terms of Table 4.18 above, the existing teams are associated to two LCB affiliated clubs; Huyton Cricket Club and Whitefield Cricket Club, both of which are situated in Huyton Community Area with their own pitches off Huyton Lane and in Court Hey Park respectively.
- 4.101. The above information has been utilised to inform the team baseline data for the current situation within the PPM model, together with the additional

of team equivalents as per the methodology to reflect school use and latent demand. This includes the identified latent demand in the Prescot, Whiston and Cronton Community Area noting the proximity of the Prescot and Odyssey Cricket Club (4 adult teams), which although located within St. Helens is primarily associated to Knowsley residents.

Conversion Rates

- 4.102. Conversion rates are calculated by multiplying the number of teams by an assumed number of players per team (e.g. 18 players per team). This gives a figure for the total number of players and is then divided by the relevant population in the PPM model to provide the percentage of affiliated players within that relevant population range.
- 4.103. From the analysis of these conversion rates, it is possible to determine an indication of latent demand relative to the current TGR and therefore identify potential opportunities to increase participation.
- 4.104. Table 4.19 provides a summary of Knowsley and Community Area conversion rates adapted from existing teams and displacement only, together with contextual data at a National level adapted from Sport England Primary Offer data⁴⁵.

Table 4.19: Knowsley Current Cricket Conversion Rates

Analysis Areas	Sub Groups		Overall average
	Adult	Junior	
Knowsley	0.3%	0.4%	0.3%
Kirkby	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Huyton	0.5%	1.0%	0.6%
PWC	0.6%	0.0%	0.5%
Halewood	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
National	0.5%	7.8%	0.4%

** All figures are rounded*

- 4.105. The national average rate reflects a prospective target which can be utilised to inform growth potential rates required to address existing participation deficits in Knowsley (and its Community Areas) which are evident through comparison.
- 4.106. All existing pitches are adaptable for use by adult and junior age groups, therefore they are considered together as a single group for the purposes of pitch requirements.

⁴⁵ Primary Offer Data Information Pack for Cricket (Sport England, 2009)

Growth Potential

- 4.107. Growth potential represents the number of teams for each cricket type (as derived from the TGR), that are required to reach the national average rate and therefore address latent demand.
- 4.108. The extent to which growth potential is achievable is dependent upon a combination of factors such as; sports development and promotion, provision of facilities, quality of facilities, accessibility of facilities, degree of opportunity for competitive fixtures, etc.
- 4.109. With regard to the above, it is essential to assess the extent to which Knowsley’s existing participation for cricket sub-groups achieves the national average through comparison of conversion rates. This provides an indication of the level of headroom provided by latent demand relative to current participation rates. This can then inform an aspirational target for level of growth seeking to address existing underperformance of participation levels in addition to regular levels of growth, to thereby account for improvements provided by the strategy and provide a realistic maximum level of growth to which demand is unlikely to exceed.
- 4.110. Table 4.20 outlines the growth potential of cricket within Knowsley (and its Community Areas) to meet the national average – the areas highlighted green represent the sub groups where the target is currently met or exceeded.

Table 4.20: Cricket Growth Potential (Teams)

Analysis Areas	Sub Groups		Total
	Adult	Junior	
Knowsley	+9	+38	+47
Kirkby	+6	+11	+17
Huyton	0	+14	+14
PWC	0	+7	+7
Halewood	+3	+6	+9

**baseline excludes team equivalents*

- 4.111. When considering the above, it is clear that in particular significant increases in participation within both the adult and junior sub groups will be necessary to address Knowsley’s existing underperformance relative to the national average. There are also significant spatial deficiencies in team numbers resulting from the low participation rate in Knowsley that suggests a degree of latent demand that could be addressed through enhanced sports development and investment.
- 4.112. Table 4.21 provides an indication of the scale of percentage increase in teams from the current baseline required to achieve the national average. Within this information it is evident that the growth required is variable relative to certain sub-groups, and provides a level of aspiration that will be

challenging to deliver as uplift between 2011 - 2028. Furthermore there is also a need to accommodate trends of uplift in growth and population change which are anticipated to influence the national average by 2028.

Table 4.21: Cricket Growth Potential (% Change in Teams) relative to national average

Analysis Areas	Sub Groups		Total
	Adult	Junior	
Knowsley	+90%	+475%	+261%
Kirkby	+600%	+1100%	+800%
Huyton	-60%	+280%	+93%
PWC	0%	+350%	+116%
Halewood	+300%	+500%	+900%

**baseline includes team equivalents*

- 4.113. National trends suggest that there is only marginal growth in terms of cricket participation across existing age groups. As a consequence the growth rates in Table 4.21 are considered sufficient to reflect the maximum potential growth between 2011 – 2028 within the PPM model including changing demographics, whilst still supporting the ECB, LCB and Sport England key objectives for cricket to grow and sustain participation
- 4.114. With regard to the above, Table 4.22 below, identifies the current surpluses and deficits of pitches relative to current supply. The detailed PPM models that inform the summary can be viewed at Appendix K.

Table 4.22: Future PPM Supply / Peak Demand Analysis in 2028: Cricket

Analysis Areas	Surplus / Deficit of Cricket Fields
Knowsley	-8
Kirkby	-4
Huyton	-3
PWC	0
Halewood	-1

** Knowsley total can differ as peak demand does not occur simultaneously between areas*

- 4.115. Table 4.22 identifies that based on existing pitch provision there are potential spatial deficits relative to peak temporal demand for cricket in Knowsley overall, and within three of the four Community Areas; Kirkby, Huyton and Halewood. In this regard, the degree of flexibility in terms of surplus pitches for other sports available above maximum peak demand to respond to excess cricket demand as it arises during the plan period will need to be assessed as part of the strategy. The consideration of this option supports a potential strategic approach of utilising minimum pitch requirements for each sport in each Community Area to calculate and supplement localised land area based standards in the future.

- 4.116. With regard to the above, temporal demand is proportionally rolled forward relative to maximum growth as part of future projections and therefore peak demands within forecasts align with Table 4.11.
- 4.117. The above information is sufficient to identify maximum pitch requirements to accommodate maximum future demand during peak periods in 2028, with a 10% uplift to allow for pitch recovery. The resultant figures are displayed in Table 4.23 below.

Table 4.23: Maximum pitch requirement for peak demand periods (+10%) by 2028 (adjusted for carrying capacity and rounded)

Analysis Areas	Total Cricket Fields Required
Knowsley	17
Kirkby	5
Huyton	7
PWC	3
Halewood	2

- 4.118. The above figures are intended to inform minimum localised standards for pitch provision to be retained that can be progressed through planning policy and reflect aspirational levels of growth by 2028. It is considered that the growth levels anticipated are unlikely to be exceeded, and reflect a best case scenario position based upon successful sports development initiatives and improvement to both quality and accessibility of existing facilities. In this regard, it is extremely likely that in practical terms Knowsley's demand will fall significantly short of the overall growth rates stated, however it is acknowledged that there is a need to ensure capacity for the upper levels of growth that could potentially be delivered.
- 4.119. With regard to the above, it is important that the position of current provision relative to pitch requirements to accommodate maximum demand plus 10% (to allow for pitch recovery in 2028) is assessed. This information is provided in Table 4.24.

Table 4.24: Current provision relative to field requirements in 2028

Analysis Areas	Surplus / Deficit of Cricket Field
Knowsley	-10
Kirkby	-5
Huyton	-4
PWC	0
Halewood	-1

- 4.120. Only pitches which have community use are included in the above calculations. School playing fields without secured community use, former

school sites (redundant following Knowsley’s BSF programme) and private provision are excluded

- 4.121. In terms of Table 4.24, it is apparent that the 10% uplift only has a minor effect on the supply / demand balance and created a marginal increase in terms of pitch requirements, including the deficits for Knowsley as a whole, and the Kirkby, Huyton and Halewood Community Areas.
- 4.122. As previously mentioned some flexibility remains to reorganise wider sporting provision to provide a better proportional range of pitch provision to meet future demand projections. However there are other available options. One such option is the potential contribution of future provision relating to existing commitments (excluding windfall provision that may arise but cannot be relied upon). With this in mind Table 4.25, provides an updated scenario for the future PPM supply and demand analysis by incorporating future commitments of new provision.

Table 4.25: Current provision and future commitments relative to field requirements in 2028

Analysis Areas	Surplus / Deficit of Cricket Fields
Knowsley	-8
Kirkby	-4
Huyton	-3
PWC	0
Halewood	-1

- 4.123. With reference to Table 4.25 above, it is clear that the future commitments of new provision (2 pitches – 1 in Kirkby, 1 in Halewood) reduce the overall deficit, however the additions would remain insufficient to address any potential supply deficits relative to demand in all areas for cricket. There is however considered to be a high prospect of delivery of commitments. This is noting that all have or are associated to planning permission for developments which are currently being implemented.
- 4.124. In addition, it should also be noted that the current and future supply position excludes dormant supply associated to pitch sites which are now considered redundant due to restructuring of school provision through the Building Schools for the Future and Primary Future Schooling programmes. In this regard it is confirmed that there were no cricket pitches available for community use which were lost through this method. Nevertheless, the strategy should consider whether surplus land could be utilised to form new cricket pitches to address demand.
- 4.125. Aside from the balance between supply and temporal demand, the strategy will also need to consider the extent to which alternative capacity could theoretically be re-distributed amongst existing pitch sites to accommodate

future projections of increased demand assuming investment to maintain and improve the quality of sites to improve carrying capacity.

- 4.126. To provide clarity to the difference between the overall pitch requirement and the influence of variations of temporal demand, a summary of current distribution of teams relative to site carrying capacity for pitches which are available for community use is as displayed in Table 4.26, with full detailed list of carrying capacity of each cricket site available at Table 4.27.

Table 4.26: Analysis of Current Team Distribution and Site Carrying Capacity for Cricket matches (after school use deductions)

Analysis Areas	Existing Capacity (per week)
Knowsley	+8
Kirkby	0
Huyton	+1
PWC	+6
Halewood	+2

- 4.127. With regard to the above, it is apparent that there is surplus capacity for additional matches per week in Knowsley overall and within the Huyton, Prescott, Whiston & Cronton and Halewood Community Areas, whereas Kirkby Community Area has no additional capacity at present due to an absence of provision at present.
- 4.128. The existing variations in peak demand in Knowsley can be accommodated by the overall quantity of pitches and associated facilities such as changing provision (as required). This is noting that limitations on changing facilities may reduce the maximum carrying capacity of sites for matches taking place at the same time, with all cricket sites having individual pitches and these facilities.
- 4.129. Overall, as per the full list in Appendix H, of the 7 total cricket pitch sites in Table 4.27, only two sites are currently at or above existing capacity.

Table 4.27: Existing Cricket Sites relative to Carrying Capacity

Site	CA*	Fields	Carrying Capacity per week	Teams	Matches per week ***	+ / -
Huyton Arts & Sports	Huyton	1	2	0	0	+2
Huyton Cricket Club	Huyton	1	3	3	2	+1
Whitefield Cricket Club	Huyton	1	2	6	4	-2
Knowsley Park CfL	PWC	1	2	0	0	+2

Parklands Sports Club	PWC	1	2	0	0	+2
St. Edmund Arrowsmith CfL	PWC	1	2	0	0	+2
Halewood CfL	H'wood	1	2	0	0	+2

*CA Community Area

- 4.130. With reference to the list of above sites, it is apparent that there are only two sites currently in use by sporting clubs (Huyton Cricket Club and Whitefield Cricket Club) either approaching or having already exceeded capacity due to the progressive growth of the clubs and the limited land area for expansion.
- 4.131. The availability of carrying capacity at other sites is primarily due to the influence of the intensity and distribution of use relative to overall demand given all Knowsley's cricket sites are single field facilities and both Huyton Cricket Club and Whitefield Cricket Club have wicket squares (6 pitches) which maximise capacity and durability. However overuse has still resulted in a qualitative decline of the condition of Whitefield Cricket Club in particular.
- 4.132. It will therefore be appropriate for the strategy to consider the extent to which there is potential for existing underused sites to take the pressure off the more heavily used sites to ensure they have sufficient rest and recovery. Furthermore these sites will be supplemented by the addition of provision as part of the conclusion of facilities delivered via the Building Schools for the Future programme, at All Saints Centre for Learning (Kirkby) and Christ the King Centre for Learning (Huyton).
- 4.133. The strategy should also be clear that identified deficits are not intended to compel the Council to reserve land exclusively for additional cricket pitches which will otherwise remain unused unless demand requirements and participation rates in Knowsley increase significantly. Instead it is an indicator of the need to ensure sufficient land remains available to respond to uplifts in demand during the plan period as required. It may be the case that the land in question remains more effective in alternative sporting use, greenspace use or informal use until such a time as it is required for cricket use, particularly given the seasonal nature of the sport (spring to autumn only).
- 4.134. In the context of the above, it should be noted that during consultation, the LCB confirmed that they no longer endorse Sport England's PPM methodology as a means of assessing supply and demand, but welcomed the overall conclusions of undersupply. In this regard, whilst the Council is aware of pilot methodologies being tested to replace the PPM, at the present time it is the only methodology available which is endorsed by Sport England. An early process of monitoring and review of the PPA is intended to be undertaken to assess the extent to which any new methodology

adopted by Sport England affects the supply / demand balance for specific sports.

Football

- 4.135. Football is the most popular team sport in terms of participation in Knowsley based on TGR, with a total of 162 teams comprising the following age groups; 47No. adult teams, 63No. junior teams, and; 52No. mini teams.
- 4.136. Football development in Knowsley is the responsibility of Liverpool County Football Association (LCFA) in association with Knowsley Council’s Sports and Physical Development Team, the Knowsley Sports and Physical Activity Alliance (SPAA) and the Merseyside Sports Partnership (MSP).
- 4.137. The current LCFA County Strategy⁴⁶ identifies a number of goals and priorities which inform the localised football development strategies within Knowsley. These are summarised in Table 4.26 below.

Table 4.28: LCFA Goals and Implications for the PPA

County goal	Knowsley development priorities
Growth and retention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requirement for a comprehensive and up-to-date audit (through the PPA) to identify gaps in provision. • Identify requirements for new provision to meet future needs. • Address the decline in adult football participation. • Sustain and enhance recent improvement in participation in youth football. • Increase non-competitive mini-football opportunities with established leagues. • Support clubs to provide opportunities for players to receive weekly training and coaching to play competitive matches. • Ensure provision for more flexible forms of football (i.e. mini leagues, summer football, play and play leagues). • Support clubs to access revenue funding via the Football Foundation.
Raising standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club development and young leadership project. • Establish club development forums.
Better players	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise the awareness of age-appropriate coaching courses to support the delivery of football to children. • Establish a 5 - 11yrs coaching focus group to develop the skills set of coaches working with the 5 - 11 age group. • Improve links between clubs to existing Centres of Excellence.

⁴⁶ Liverpool County Football Association: County Strategy 2008 – 2012 (LCFA, 2008)

- 4.138. The development priorities in Table 4.28 will influence the potential future growth rates of different types of football in Knowsley, alongside established national trends.
- 4.139. In terms of existing circumstances, Knowsley does not currently have a specific league structure which is exclusive to its boundaries or covers all Community Areas within the Borough. However there are a significant number of leagues which accommodate teams from the Knowsley area, which are listed in Table 4.29;

Table 4.29: Football Leagues including Knowsley teams

League Name	Type	Teams	Community Areas Served
Belle Vale	Junior	5	Huyton and Prescott, Whiston & Cronton
Bootle & Netherton	Junior	2	Huyton and Prescott, Whiston & Cronton
Craven Minor	Junior	1	Prescot, Whiston & Cronton
Evo Stik	Adult	1	Prescot, Whiston & Cronton
Formers	Adult	1	Kirkby
Halton & District	Junior	6	Prescot, Whiston & Cronton and Halewood
I Zingari	Adult	9	Kirkby; Huyton and Halewood
Liverpool & District	Adult	1	Huyton
Liverpool Business Houses	Adult	6	Kirkby; Huyton and Halewood
Liverpool CMS	Adult	4	Kirkby and Huyton
Liverpool County FA	Adult	5	Kirkby; Huyton and Halewood
Liverpool Old Boys	Adult	1	Halewood
Merseyside Ability Counts	Adult	3	Kirkby and Huyton
Merseyside & Halewood	Adult, Junior & Mini	48	Huyton; Prescot, Whiston & Cronton and Halewood
Merseyside Christian	Adult	1	Kirkby
North West Counties	Adult	1	Prescot, Whiston & Cronton
Ormskirk & District	Adult	5	Kirkby and Prescott, Whiston & Cronton
South Lancs Counties	Adult	1	Huyton
South Liverpool & District	Junior	2	Prescot, Whiston & Cronton
St. Helens & District Combination	Adult	3	Huyton and Prescott, Whiston & Cronton
St. Helens & Rainhill Alliance	Junior & Mini	38	Kirkby; Huyton and Prescott, Whiston & Cronton
Walton & Kirkdale	Junior & Mini	5	Kirkby and Huyton
Warrington & District	Adult	1	Prescot, Whiston & Cronton
Warrington	Junior	7	Huyton and Prescott, Whiston & Cronton
Warrington Sunday	Adult	2	Prescot, Whiston & Cronton
West Cheshire	Adult	1	Prescot, Whiston & Cronton
Unaffiliated	Adult	2	

- 4.140. With reference to the above, the breakdown of existing Knowsley teams by age group associated is identified within Table 4.30.

Table 4.30: Knowsley Football Teams by Age Group

Team Type	Age Group (Years)	Number of Teams
Adult football		
Adult football - male	16 - 45	47
Adult football - female	16 - 45	0
Total		47
Junior football		
Junior - male	Under 16	7
Junior - male	Under 15	9
Junior - male	Under 14	5
Junior - male	Under 13	14
Junior - male	Under 12	17
Junior - male	Under 11	11
Junior - female	10 – 16	0
Total		63
Mini football		
Mini – mixed	Under 10	18
Mini – mixed	Under 9	12
Mini - mixed	Under 8	11
Mini - mixed	Under 7	11
Total		52

- 4.141. The above information has been utilised to inform the team baseline data for the current situation within the PPM model, together with the additional of team equivalents as per the methodology. Nevertheless future growth projections must be associated to conversion rates and growth potential in accordance with football development to ensure robust modelling.

Conversion Rates

- 4.142. Conversion rates are calculated by multiplying the number of teams by an assumed number of players per team (e.g. 18 players per 11-a-side team and 10 players per mini soccer). This gives a figure for the total number of players and is then divided by the relevant population in the PPM model to provide the percentage of affiliated players within that relevant population.
- 4.143. From the analysis of these conversion rates, it is possible to determine an indication of latent demand relative to the current TGR and therefore identify potential opportunities to increase participation.
- 4.144. Table 4.31 provides a summary of Knowsley and Community Area conversion rates adapted from existing teams and displacement only, the

ONS sub-group target and contextual data at a North West and National level obtained from the Liverpool County FA Participation Report⁴⁷.

Table 4.31: Knowsley Current Football Conversion Rates

Analysis Areas	Sub Groups					Overall average
	Adult-male	Adult - female	Junior-boys	Junior - girls	Mini - mixed	
Knowsley	3.2%	0.0%	21.3%	2.0%	5.5%	2.9%
Kirkby	3.3%	0.0%	13.3%	0.0%	1.8%	1.9%
Huyton	2.7%	0.0%	12.6%	4.1%	8.0%	2.6%
PWC	3.9%	0.0%	41.4%	2.0%	3.2%	4.0%
Halewood	3.4%	0.0%	39.4%	0.0%	9.3%	4.2%
ONS Target	5.3%	0.2%	20.9%	2.4%	10%	
North West	4.7%	0.2%	21.6%	2.3%	11.5%	6.1%
National	5.4%	0.3%	21.4%	2.3%	9.1%	5.9%

* All figures are rounded

4.145. The ONS sub-group target provided by the Liverpool County FA is based upon comparison of conversion rates of Local Authorities with similar population characteristics to Knowsley which are; Barrow-in-Furness, Copeland, Darlington, Derwentside, Easington, Gateshead, Halton, Hartlepool, Kingston upon Hull, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, Sedgfield, Sefton, South Tyneside, St. Helens, Stoke-on-Trent, Sunderland, Tameside, Wansbeck, Wear Valley, Wirral.⁴⁸

4.146. The prospective target represents the value of the upper quartile (75th Percentile) of conversion rates of all local authorities in the ONS subgroup. Comparison of Knowsley's performance in this context can provide a basis to estimate growth potential.

Growth Potential

4.147. Growth potential represents the number of teams for each football type (as derived from the TGR), that are required to reach the ONS conversion rate target value, and therefore address latent demand.

4.148. The extent to which growth potential is achievable is dependent upon a combination of factors such as; sports development and promotion, provision of facilities, quality of facilities, accessibility of facilities, degree of opportunity for competitive fixtures, etc.

4.149. With regard to the above, it is essential to assess the extent to which Knowsley's existing participation for football sub-groups achieves the ONS target through comparison of conversion rates. This provides an indication of the level of headroom provided by latent demand relative to current

⁴⁷ Knowsley Local Area Data – FA Football Participation Report 2010-11 (Liverpool CFA, 2011)

⁴⁸ Area Classification of Local Authorities (ONS, 2009)

participation rates. An indication of headroom can then inform an aspirational target for level of growth seeking to address existing underperformance of participation levels in addition to regular levels of growth. Adopting this approach accounts for improvements provided by the strategy and offers a realistic maximum level of growth to which demand is unlikely to exceed.

- 4.150. Table 4.32 outlines the growth potential of football within Knowsley (and its Community Areas) to meet the ONS target – the areas highlighted green represent the sub groups where the target is currently met or exceeded. In the case of junior and mini football, the growth potential is calculated on the basis of an average number of players across all formats.

Table 4.32: ONS Football Growth Potential (Teams)

Analysis Areas	Sub Groups					Total
	Adult - male	Adult - female	Junior-boys	Junior - girls	Mini - mixed	
Knowsley	+34	+2	-1	+1	+47	+83
Kirkby	+9	+1	+7	+2	+24	+46
Huyton	+17	+1	+11	-2	+9	+36
PWC	+4	0	-11	0	+13	+6
Halewood	+4	0	-8	+1	+1	-2
Group Totals	+36		0		+47	

- 4.151. When considering the above, it is clear that in particular significant increases in participation within the adult (male) and mini football sub-groups will be necessary to address Knowsley’s existing underperformance relative to the ONS upper quartile. There are also significant spatial deficiencies in team numbers relating to junior (boys) football participation in Kirkby and Huyton when considering the respective TGRs. The remaining growth in teams is fairly low for other sub-groups, which is reflective of their lower participation rates.
- 4.152. Table 4.33 provides an indication of the scale of percentage increase in teams from the current baseline required to achieve the ONS upper quartile. It is evident that the growth required is variable relative to certain sub-groups, and provides a level of aspiration that will be challenging to deliver as an uplift between 2011 - 2028. Furthermore there is also a need to accommodate trends of uplift in growth and population change which are anticipated to influence the ONS upper quartile by 2028.

Table 4.33: Football Growth Potential (% Change in Teams) relative to ONS sub-group comparator upper quartile target

Analysis Areas	Sub Groups					Total
	Adult - male	Adult - female	Junior-boys	Junior - girls	Mini - mixed	
Knowsley	+54%	+200%	-2%	+17%	+84%	+47%
Kirkby	+47%	+100%	+37%	+200%	+400%	+121%
Huyton	+77%	+100%	+42%	-67%	+26%	+32%
PWC	+29%	0%	-46%	0%	+68%	+21%
Halewood	+50%	0%	-80%	+100%	+7%	-7%
Group Totals	57%		0%		84%	

4.153. Table 4.34 below, responds to the latent demand identified relative to ONS upper quartile comparators to provide the cumulative percentage uplift in this regard to estimate a realistic maximum football growth potential for Knowsley.

Table 4.34: Estimated Maximum Football Growth Potential Overall (% Change in Teams): 2011 – 2028

Analysis Areas	Sub Groups					Total
	Adult - male	Adult - female	Junior-boys	Junior - girls	Mini - mixed	
Knowsley	56%	200%	39%	100%	93%	64%
Kirkby	53%	100%	74%	400%	440%	158%
Huyton	81%	100%	110%	15%	36%	55%
PWC	36%	13%	15%	15%	200%	49%
Halewood	56%	13%	15%	200%	29%	31%
Group Totals	62%		44%		93%	

4.154. The above rates reflect population / demographic change and maximum anticipated growth in football participation between 2011 and 2028 derived from historic rates within the FA's National Game Strategy (2011 – 2015). In terms of the individual sub groups the standard baseline growth rates by 2028 included in the above are:

- Adult (male) – 3%.
- Adult (female) – 13%
- Junior (boys) – 15%
- Junior (girls) – 75%

4.155. With regard to the above, the trajectory of growth for mini football has also been altered to achieve a ratio of 3:2 relative to junior football in 2028, as recent short term growth rates could not be used as they appeared unsustainable over the period of assessment.

- 4.156. The rates in Table 4.34 also include appropriate adaptation relative to latent demand and existing displacement which suggests greater capacity for uplifts to areas currently underperforming against Knowsley's ONS sub-group comparator upper quartile participation target (indicator of latent demand).
- 4.157. To put these growth rates into appropriate context, the implications for Knowsley in terms of additional demand for playing pitches in 2028 would be a requirement for the following number of additional football teams as displayed in Table 4.35.

Table 4.35: Overall Football Growth Potential (Teams)

Analysis Areas	Sub Groups					Total
	Adult - male	Adult - female	Junior-boys	Junior - girls	Mini - mixed	
Knowsley	+37	+2	+39	+7	+62	+147
Kirkby	+10	+1	+13	+4	+26	+54
Huyton	+18	+1	+18	+1	+13	+51
PWC	+5	0	+4	+1	+18	+28
Halewood	+4	0	+4	+1	+5	+14
Group Totals	+39		+46		+62	

- 4.158. The above growth rates have been utilised through the PPM model to assess future demands for pitch provision. In this regard, Table 4.36 below identifies the current surpluses and deficits of pitches relative to current supply. The detailed PPM models that inform the summary can be viewed at Appendix K.

Table 4.36: Future PPM Supply / Peak Demand Analysis in 2028: Football (re-adjusted pro-rata)

Analysis Areas	Pitches Type		
	Adult football	Junior football	Mini football
Knowsley	+26	+9	+14
Kirkby	+5	-5	-1
Huyton	+4	+9	+2
PWC	+7	+6	+3
Halewood	+4	-3	+5

* Knowsley total differs as peak demand does not occur simultaneously between areas

- 4.159. Table 4.36 identifies that based on existing pitch provision there are potential spatial deficits relative to peak temporal demand for junior football in Kirkby and Halewood, and mini football in Halewood. However it is clear that there is some flexibility in terms of surplus pitches above maximum peak demand forecasts associated to other age groups such as adult football, which could be suitable to be re-marked as junior football or mini

football to address these issues. The availability of this option supports a potential strategic approach of utilising minimum pitch requirements in each Community Area to calculate and supplement localised land area based standards in the future.

- 4.160. With regard to the above, temporal demand is proportionally rolled forward relative to maximum growth as part of future projections and therefore peak demand in forecasts aligns with Table 4.11. Re-adjustments pro-rata reflects reductions for carrying capacity uplifts associated to mini football provision to ensure accuracy in terms of actual pitch numbers.
- 4.161. The above information is sufficient to identify maximum pitch requirements to accommodate maximum future demand during peak periods in 2028, with a 10% uplift to allow for pitch recovery. The resultant figures are displayed in Table 4.37 below.

Table 4.37: Maximum pitch requirement for peak demand periods by 2028 (adjusted for carrying capacity and flexibility)

Analysis Areas	Pitches Required			Total
	Adult football pitches	Junior football pitches	Mini football pitches	
Knowsley	31	51	23	106
Kirkby	10	13	7	30
Huyton	13	16	8	37
PWC	5	10	4	19
Halewood	3	12	4	19

- 4.162. The above figures are intended to inform minimum localised standards for pitch provision to be retained that can be progressed through planning policy and reflect aspirational levels of growth by 2028. In this regard, additional uplifts of 5% have been applied in Huyton (adult, junior and mini football) and Prescot, Whiston and Cronton (adult and junior) to provide sufficient flexibility to account for proportional underperformance of peak temporal demand for each age group.
- 4.163. It is considered that the growth levels anticipated are unlikely to be exceeded, and reflect a best case scenario position based upon successful sports development initiatives and improvement to both quality and accessibility of existing facilities. In this regard, it is extremely likely that in practical terms Knowsley’s demand will fall significantly short of the overall growth rates stated, however we acknowledge that there is a need to ensure capacity for the upper levels of growth that could potentially be delivered.
- 4.164. With regard to the above, it is important that the position of current provision relative to pitch requirements to accommodate maximum demand plus 10% (to allow for pitch recovery in 2028) is assessed. This information is

provided in Table 4.38. Only pitches which have community use are included in the calculations. School playing fields without secured community use, former school sites which are redundant following Knowsley’s BSF programme and private provision (i.e. Liverpool FC Academy in Kirkby and Everton’s Finch Farm site in Halewood) are excluded

Table 4.38: Current provision relative to pitch requirements in 2028

Analysis Areas	Pitch Type		
	Adult football pitches	Junior football pitches	Mini football pitches
Knowsley	+16	-1	+4
Kirkby	+5	-6	-2
Huyton	+1	+5	0
PWC	+6	+4	+2
Halewood	+4	-4	+4

4.165. In terms of Table 4.38, it is apparent that the alteration to pitch requirements reduces the overall surplus of pitches, particularly at a Knowsley level as it restricts the flexibility associated to temporal demand and actually creates a deficit overall relative to mini football. It also creates marginal increases to deficits for junior football in Kirkby and Halewood, and mini football in Halewood, resulting from the 10% uplift. The above information assumes a scenario of qualitative improvements to existing supply to secure a minimum of one game per week per pitch.

4.166. As previously mentioned some flexibility remains to reorganise existing provision to provide a better proportional range of pitch provision to meet future demand projections. However there are other available options. One such option is the potential contribution of future provision relating to existing commitments (excluding windfall provision that may arise but cannot be relied upon). With this in mind Table 4.39, provides an updated scenario for pitches relative to 2028 requirements by incorporating future commitments of new provision.

Table 4.39: Current provision and future commitments relative to pitch requirements in 2028

Analysis Areas	Age Groups		
	Adult football	Junior football	Mini football
Knowsley	+18	+13	+12
Kirkby	+7	+2	+4
Huyton	+1	+8	+2
PWC	+6	+4	+2
Halewood	+4	-1	+4

- 4.167. With reference to Table 4.39 above, the future commitments of new provision would be sufficient to address potential deficits and would ensure that supply accommodates or exceeds demand in all areas for all age groups of football. The only exception in this regard is within Halewood for junior football where a marginal deficit remains. Nevertheless in this context capacity is available to remodel existing surpluses for adult football in the locality to address this issue.
- 4.168. There is considered to be a high prospect of delivery of commitments. This is noting that all have or are associated to planning permission for developments which are currently being implemented by the Council, aside from 2No. adult pitches in Kirkby the delivery of which currently remain dependent upon the interests of a private developer.
- 4.169. In addition, it should also be noted that the current and future supply position excludes dormant supply associated to pitch sites which are now considered redundant due to restructuring of school provision through the Building Schools for the Future and Primary Future Schooling programmes. These pitches in terms of type and location are identified in Table 4.40.

Table 4.40: Football: Current redundant supply on former pitch sites

Analysis Areas	Age Groups		
	Adult football	Junior football	Mini football
Knowsley	8	6	5
Kirkby	2	0	4
Huyton	4	3	1
PWC	2	0	0
Halewood	0	3	0

** Knowsley total differs as peak demand does not occur simultaneously between areas*

- 4.170. It is apparent from Table 4.40, that the former pitch sites associated to the school reorganisations could have some benefit if brought back into public use. However this is not essential due to the alternatives provided by the anticipated delivery of future provision and the flexibility of existing provision being reorganised to meet recommended standards. In this regard, the future strategy will need to consider whether the sites may be more suited to address any existing deficits relating to other greenspace typologies, or otherwise to meet other development needs.
- 4.171. Aside from the balance between supply and temporal demand, the strategy will also need to consider the extent to which alternative capacity (complete list by site at Appendix E) could theoretically be re-distributed amongst existing pitch sites to accommodate future projections of increased demand assuming investment to maintain and improve the quality of sites to improve carrying capacity.

4.172. To provide clarity to the difference between the overall pitch requirement and the influence of variations of temporal demand, a summary of current distribution of teams relative to site carrying capacity for pitches which are available for community use is as displayed in Table 4.41, with full detailed list of carrying capacity of each football site available at Appendix H.

Table 4.41: Analysis of Current Team Distribution and Existing Site Carrying Capacity for Football matches

Analysis Areas	Cumulative Pitch Capacity (per week)				
	Adult football matches	Adult & Junior football matches	Junior football matches	Junior & Mini football matches	Mini football matches
Knowsley	+19	+16	+40	+4	+61
Kirkby	+13	0	+10	0	+10
Huyton	+4	+7	+12	+4	+11
PWC	-1	+7	+15	0	+21
Halewood	+3	+2	+3	0	+20

4.173. It is apparent that there is surplus capacity in all areas and for all types of pitch (adult, junior and mini) for additional matches per week, provided the variations in peak demand can be accommodated by the overall quantity of pitches and associated facilities such as changing provision (if required). This is noting that limitations on changing facilities may reduce the maximum carrying capacity of sites for matches taking place at the same time and therefore require programming of fixtures. However the extent to which this is a potential issue is difficult to measure noting evidence that a significant number of pitch sites without changing facilities are currently in match use, including all age groups (6 sites in total – 28% of overall sites in match use).

4.174. There is also evidence of the dimensions of some pitches being adapted for use by different age groups, particularly adult and junior pitches where dimensions of some pitches are suitable for both. As a consequence, additional columns in Table 4.41 were added to reflect the readily adaptable capacity of pitches which provides a flexible supply which could consolidate requirements relative to changing demand in different age group. In this regard, the apparent deficit in carrying capacity for adult football matches in Prescot, Whiston and Cronton is mis-leading, as there is actually an overall surplus of 6 match equivalents of carrying capacity available for these purposes.

4.175. In terms of the detail of Table 4.41, although the available carrying capacity for mini football matches per week appears comparatively high, this reflects the different intensity of use provided by this form of football and the consequent increase in capacity for number of games per pitch per week. This also supports the Council's approach in adjusting the PPM assessments relative to carrying capacity.

- 4.176. Issues such as overplay of facilities generally occur where there are limited alternatives. This generally is where there is an existing hierarchy of provision where the highest quality facilities are most in demand, or alternatively where the provision for certain age groups / sports is extremely limited in quality and / or quantity in the locality. In either of these circumstances the solution is to ensure that higher quality alternatives are available within the Community Area to re-distribute the existing demand more equally and therefore reduce the wear and tear on specific pitches resulting from their over play. Appendix H includes more detailed information on carrying capacity, including a summary of the existing situation on a pitch by pitch basis, together with suggestion of potential actions and improvements relative to existing quality and potential for carrying capacity improvements which will be utilised in devising the strategy and action plan.
- 4.177. When considered cumulatively on a site by site basis, as per the full list in Appendix H, of the 43 total football pitch sites, the following 8 sites in Table 4.42 are those which have either no existing additional carrying capacity or are currently in deficit;

Table 4.42: Existing Sites without Surplus Carrying Capacity

Site	CA*	Sub Group**	Pitches	Carrying Capacity per week	Teams	Matches per week***	+ / -
Huyton KGV	Huyton	Adult	3	6	8	6	0
Huyton KGV	Huyton	Junior	2	4	5	4	0
Manor Farm Road / Cowper Way	Huyton	Mini	1	0	0	0	0
Jubilee Park	Huyton	Mini	2	8	11	8	0
Knowsley RG	Huyton	Junior / Mini	2	4	5	4	0
Lord Derbys PF	Huyton	Junior	3	6	8	6	0
Manor Farm Road / Cowper Way	Huyton	Mini	1	0	0	0	0
Mill Lane	Huyton	Adult	1	1	2	2	-1
Nyland Road	Huyton	Mini	1	0	0	0	0
Pool Hey	Huyton	Adult	2	2	3	2	0
Swanside PF	Huyton	Junior	2	0	0	0	0

Site	CA*	Sub Group**	Pitches	Carrying Capacity per week	Teams	Matches per week***	+ / -
LL / WAR RG	PWC	Junior	2	4	5	4	0
Parklands SG	PWC	Adult / Junior	1	2	5	3	-1
Valerie Park	PWC	Adult	1	2	2	2	0
Arncliffe SG	H'wood	Junior	3	6	11	9	-3
Frederick Lunt	H'wood	Adult / Junior	2	4	5	4	0

*CA Community Area

**Sub-group includes pitches used for different age groups due to suitable dimensions

- 4.178. With reference to the list of above sites there are varying reasons for an absence of additional carrying capacity, including;
- hierarchy of existing provision – higher quality sites with good quality pitches and facilities, such as Arncliffe Road, which are most in demand for match use and hence most intensively used.
 - single club leases – the growth of individual clubs which lease sites such as Lord Derbys Playing Fields and Lickers Lane / Windy Arbor Road can reduce capacity with time.
 - influence of intensity of use - Mill Lane is in poor condition due to the long term intensity of use which has reduced the carrying capacity meaning the single pitch is now overused relative to demand.
 - poor quality sites – Manor Farm Road / Cowper Way, Nyland Road and Swanside Playing Fields are not currently in a suitable condition to accommodate any match provision.
 - inefficient existing land use – i.e. Pool Hey, which has a large land area of outdoor sports provision, with only a small proportion of land suitable to form a playing pitch used at present and the remainder are dormant.
 - site adaptability – for example Parklands Sport Ground is used for multiple sports with specific areas allocated to different sports based on existing demand. Similarly Arncliffe Sports Ground and Two Butt Lane are allocated relative to demand for different age group requirements.
 - remote location / displacement – Parklands Sport Ground has little local alternative and caters for displacement from Halton.

- 4.179. The strategy will need to consider the issues raised in this regard to assess the extent to which investment and improvement can mitigate the site specific issues and ensure they are not suffered in the future at other sites.

Hockey

- 4.180. Hockey remains a niche sport within Knowsley with only concentrated demand in limited areas based on TGR, with a total of 9 teams, all of which are adult teams at present, comprising 6 male teams and 3 female teams.
- 4.181. Hockey development in Knowsley is devolved from the England Hockey Board (EHB) to regional and county associations. There is also linkage to

the Knowsley Council’s Sports and Physical Development Team, the Knowsley Sports and Physical Activity Alliance (SPAA) and the Merseyside Sports Partnership (MSP).

- 4.182. EHB is in the final year of its ‘2009-2013’ Strategy. EHB’s mission for this 4 year period is “to provide effective leadership and support for all to fulfill their potential”. The 8 key strategic objectives for 2009-2013 are to:
- Attract and retain more people in the sport
 - Help our clubs and associations to develop and thrive
 - Enhanced Single System throughout the sport
 - Achieve international podium success
 - Maximise the opportunities of 2012
 - Raise the sport's profile and improve communications
 - Broaden our income base
 - Continue to enhance the quality of our governance and operations
- 4.183. The focus for EHB is to increase participation and as an organisation become more financially self-sufficient and they are currently finalising their 2013-2017 strategy “A Nation where Hockey Matters”. There is also a focus for EHB in 2012 is to deliver their Olympic programme called Hockey Nation, which includes GB player visits, the npower Big Dribble, and the 5 week events across the country.
- 4.184. At a regional level, including Merseyside, EHB is focussed on supporting and developing the local clubs, improving the club-school links, and developing school hockey at primary and secondary schools (using the Quicksticks and In2Hockey products). EHB is also supporting facilities reviews/developments to ensure there are enough of the right type of hockey pitches available in the future and is heavily focussed on delivering its adult initiatives (16+), including RUSH hockey and Back to Hockey.
- 4.185. The development priorities above will influence the potential future growth rates of different types of hockey in Knowsley, alongside established national trends. In terms of existing circumstances, Knowsley does not currently have a specific league structure that is exclusive to its boundaries or covers all Community Areas within the Borough. However there are a number of regional leagues which accommodate teams from the Knowsley area, which are listed in Table 4.43;

Table 4.43: Hockey Leagues including Knowsley teams

League Name	Type	Teams	Community Areas Served
North West Hockey League	Adult	5	Kirkby and Prescott, Whiston & Cronton
Lancashire Women’s League	Adult	2	Prescot, Whiston & Cronton
Unaffiliated	Adult	2	Prescot, Whiston & Cronton

- 4.186. With reference to the above, the breakdown of existing Knowsley teams by age group associated is identified within Table 4.44.

Table 4.44: Knowsley Hockey Teams by Age Group

Team Type	Age Group (Years)	Number of Teams
Adult hockey		
Adult football - male	16 - 45	6
Adult football - female	16 - 45	3
Total		9
Junior hockey		
Junior - male	Under 11 - 15	0
Junior - female	Under 11 - 15	0
Total		0

- 4.187. In this regard, the existing teams are associated to two EHB affiliated clubs; Prescott Hockey Club and West Derby Hockey Club, which are based in Prescott, Whiston & Cronton and Kirkby Community Areas respectively utilising synthetic pitches and facilities at Prescott Leisure Centre and Kirkby Sports College.
- 4.188. EHB is working closely with West Derby Hockey Club on developing a new junior section for the club. The club is now engaged with Kirby Sports College and will be delivering hockey both in curriculum and in an after-school club.
- 4.189. The above information has been utilised to inform the team baseline data for the current situation within the PPM model, together with the additional of team equivalents to reflect school use and latent demand.
- 4.190. All existing pitches are adaptable for use by adult and junior age groups, therefore they are considered together as a single group for the purposes of pitch requirements.

Conversion Rates

- 4.191. Conversion rates are calculated by multiplying the number of teams by an assumed number of players per team (e.g. 18 players per team). This gives a figure for the total number of players and is then divided by the relevant population in the PPM model to provide the percentage of affiliated players within that relevant population.
- 4.192. From the analysis of these conversion rates, it is possible to determine an indication of latent demand relative to the current TGR and therefore identify potential opportunities to increase participation.
- 4.193. Table 4.45 provides a summary of Knowsley and Community Area conversion rates adapted from existing teams and displacement only,

together with contextual data at a National level adapted from Sport England Primary Offer data⁴⁹.

Table 4.45: Knowsley Current Hockey Conversion Rates

Analysis Areas	Sub Groups		Overall average
	Adult	Junior	
Knowsley	0.3%	0.0%	0.2%
Kirkby	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%
Huyton	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
PWC	1.2%	0.0%	1.1%
Halewood	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
National	0.5%	3.1%	0.8%

* All figures are rounded

- 4.194. The national average rate reflects a prospective target which can be utilised to inform growth potential rates required to address existing participation deficits in Knowsley (and its Community Areas) which are evident through comparison.

Growth Potential

- 4.195. Growth potential represents the number of teams for each hockey type (as derived from the TGR), that are required to reach the national average rate and therefore address latent demand.
- 4.196. The extent to which growth potential is achievable is dependent upon a combination of factors such as; sports development and promotion, provision of facilities, quality of facilities, accessibility of facilities, degree of opportunity for competitive fixtures, etc.
- 4.197. With regard to the above, it is essential to assess the extent to which Knowsley's existing participation for hockey sub-groups achieves the national average through comparison of conversion rates. This provides an indication of the level of headroom provided by latent demand relative to current participation rates. The identification of headroom can then inform an aspirational target for level of growth seeking to address existing underperformance of participation levels in addition to regular levels of growth. Utilising this approach accounts for improvements provided by the strategy and offers a realistic maximum level of growth to which demand is unlikely to exceed.
- 4.198. Table 4.46 outlines the growth potential of hockey within Knowsley (and its Community Areas) to meet the national average – the areas highlighted green represent the sub groups where the target is currently met or exceeded.

⁴⁹ Primary Offer Data Information Pack for Hockey (Sport England, 2009)

Table 4.46: Hockey Growth Potential (Teams)

Analysis Areas	Sub Groups		Total
	Adult	Junior	
Knowsley	+14	+16	+30
Kirkby	+5	+4	+9
Huyton	+7	+7	+14
PWC	0	+3	+3
Halewood	+2	+2	+4

**No team equivalents added due to durability of synthetic surfaces*

- 4.199. When considering the above, it is clear that significant increases in participation within both the adult and junior sub groups will be necessary to address Knowsley’s existing underperformance relative to the national average. There are also significant spatial deficiencies in team numbers resulting from the low participation rate in Knowsley which suggests a degree of latent demand which could be addressed through enhanced sports development and investment. The only area in existing surplus is adult hockey in Prescot, Whiston & Cronton which actually has a surplus of +4 teams relative to the national average, hence the 0 figure for growth potential.
- 4.200. Table 4.47 provides an indication of the scale of percentage increase in teams from the current baseline required to achieve the national average. It is evident that the growth required is variable relative to certain sub-groups, and provides a level of aspiration that will be challenging to deliver as uplift between 2011 - 2028. Furthermore there is also a need to accommodate trends of uplift in growth and population change which are anticipated to influence the national average by 2028.

Table 4.47: Hockey Growth Potential (% Change in Teams) relative to national average

Analysis Areas	Sub Groups		Total
	Adult	Junior	
Knowsley	+155%	+1600%	+333%
Kirkby	+250%	+400%	+450%
Huyton	+700%	+700%	+1400%
PWC	0	+300%	+43%
Halewood	+200%	+200%	+400%

**No team equivalents added due to durability of synthetic surfaces*

- 4.201. National trends suggest that hockey participation remains fairly static across existing age groups. As a consequence the substantial growth rates in Table 4.47 are considered sufficient to reflect the maximum potential growth levels between 2011 – 2028 in the PPM model which reflects changing demographics, whilst still supporting the EH and Sport England key objectives for hockey which are to grow and sustain participation.

4.202. Table 4.48 below identifies the current surpluses and deficits of pitches relative to current supply. The detailed PPM models which inform the summary can be viewed at Appendix K.

Table 4.48: Future PPM Supply / Peak Demand Analysis in 2028: Hockey (re-adjusted pro-rata)

Analysis Areas	Surplus / Deficit of Hockey Pitch Availability
Knowsley	+3
Kirkby	+1
Huyton	0
PWC	+1
Halewood	0

* Knowsley total can differ as peak demand does not occur simultaneously between areas

4.203. With regard to Table 4.48, temporal demand is either proportionally rolled forward relative to maximum growth or estimated as part of future projections and therefore peak demand in forecasts align with Table 4.11. Furthermore based upon existing pitch provision there are no spatial deficits relative to peak temporal demand for hockey in Knowsley overall through to 2028, or within the associated Community Areas. There is also significant value in the durability of existing synthetic pitches which ensures that there is greater carrying capacity for matches and training (including in evenings and for other sports due to the provision of floodlighting at all existing sites).

4.204. The above information is sufficient to identify maximum pitch requirements to accommodate maximum future demand during peak periods in 2028, with a 10% uplift to allow for pitch recovery. The resultant figures are displayed in Table 4.49.

Table 4.49: Maximum pitch requirement for peak demand periods (+10%) by 2028 (adj for carrying capacity and rounded)

Analysis Areas	Total Hockey Pitches Required
Knowsley	7
Kirkby	2
Huyton	2
PWC	2
Halewood	1

4.205. The above figures are intended to inform minimum localised standards for pitch provision to be retained that can be progressed through planning policy and reflect aspirational levels of growth by 2028. It is considered that the growth levels anticipated are unlikely to be exceeded, and reflect a best case scenario position based upon successful sports development initiatives and improvement to both quality and accessibility of existing facilities. In this regard, it is extremely likely that in practical terms

Knowsley's demand will fall significantly short of the overall growth rates stated, however it is acknowledged that there is a need to ensure capacity for the upper levels of growth which could potentially be delivered.

- 4.206. With regard to the above, it is important that the position of current provision relative to pitch requirements to accommodate maximum demand plus 10% (to allow for flexibility in demand and periods of pitch maintenance by 2028) is assessed. This information is provided in Table 4.50. Only pitches which have community use are included in the calculations. School facilities without secured community use and former school sites which are redundant following Knowsley's BSF programme and private provision are excluded.

Table 4.50: Current Hockey provision relative to pitch requirements in 2028

Analysis Areas	Surplus / Deficit of Hockey Pitches
Knowsley	+1
Kirkby	0
Huyton	0
PWC	+1
Halewood	0

- 4.207. In terms of Table 4.50, it is apparent that the 10% uplift only has a minor effect on the supply / demand balance and created a marginal increase in terms of pitch requirements, but still does not present any deficits at a Knowsley level or with regard to any of the Community Areas.
- 4.208. The suitability of existing synthetic pitch provision to meet current and future needs for hockey use is positive given the absence of future commitments for new provision and reflects the forward thinking strategy that underpinned the delivery of community facilities as part of the Knowsley's BSF programme. However at present, England Hockey does not sanction the use of third generation turf ('3G') pitches for hockey matches. In the event that this situation remains unchanged, the revised position of current provision relating to future demand (+10%) for non-3G synthetic pitches only, would be as follows in Table 4.51.

Table 4.51: Current Hockey provision and future commitments relative to pitch requirements in 2028 (with 3G deducted)

Analysis Areas	Surplus / Deficit of Hockey Pitches
Knowsley	-1
Kirkby	0
Huyton	-1
PWC	+1
Halewood	-1

- 4.209. In view of the above, it should be noted that Knowsley will be required to retain some flexibility in Huyton and Halewood for further investment in non-3G synthetic pitches in the event that restrictions on 3G pitches for match use are not lifted by England Hockey. In this regard, adaptation of five-a-side football pitches / tennis courts at Huyton KGV and Halewood Leisure Centre provides a potential solution, although this should remain a longer term priority given limited demand in Huyton and Halewood as existing.
- 4.210. Current and future supply position excludes dormant supply associated to pitch sites now considered redundant due to restructuring of school provision through the Building Schools for the Future and Primary Future Schooling programmes. However it is confirmed that there were no hockey pitches available for community use which were lost through this method.
- 4.211. Aside from the balance between supply and temporal demand, there is a need for the strategy to consider the extent to which alternative capacity could theoretically be re-distributed amongst existing pitch sites to accommodate future projections of increased demand through improvements to carrying capacity. However it is clear that this is not as applicable to synthetic pitches compared to grass pitches, given the much greater durability and consequently has no requirement for recovery time.
- 4.212. It is therefore inaccurate to project a maximum carrying capacity for hockey pitches the individual sites beyond the limitations of peak demand relative to temporal time periods.
- 4.213. The strategy however should consider the potential dual role of the synthetic pitches utilised for hockey, specifically in terms of providing relief to grass pitches through use as training/practice facilities.

Rugby League

- 4.214. Rugby League is a sport that has varied levels of regional participation when considered at a national level, with concentrations of high participation in the North West including the neighbouring districts of St. Helens and Halton. Knowsley however has only concentrated demand at present in the Prescot, Whiston & Cronton Community Area based on the TGR, with a total of 4 teams comprising the following age groups; 3No. adult teams and 1No. junior team.
- 4.215. Rugby League development in Knowsley is the responsibility of the British Amateur Rugby League Association (BARLA), which is in turn affiliated to the Rugby Football League (RFL). There is also linkage to the Knowsley Council's Sports and Physical Development Team, the Knowsley Sports and Physical Activity Alliance (SPAA) and the Merseyside Sports Partnership (MSP).

- 4.216. The development priorities to grow and sustain participation influence the potential future growth rates of different types of rugby league in Knowsley, alongside established national trends.
- 4.217. In terms of existing circumstances, Knowsley does not currently have a specific league structure which is exclusive to its boundaries or covers all Community Areas within the Borough. However there are a number of sub-regional leagues which accommodate teams from the Knowsley area, which are listed in Table 4.52.

Table 4.52: Rugby League competitions including Knowsley teams

League Name	Type	Teams	Community Areas Served
North West Counties ARL	Adult	2	Prescot, Whiston & Cronton
North West Counties ARL	Junior	1	Prescot, Whiston & Cronton
Womens Amateur RL	Adult	1	Prescot, Whiston & Cronton

- 4.218. With reference to the above, the breakdown of existing Knowsley teams by age group associated is identified within Table 4.53.

Table 4.53: Knowsley Rugby League Teams by Age Group

Team Type	Age Group (Years)	Number of Teams
Adult rugby league		
Adult football - male	18 - 45	2
Adult football - female	18 - 45	1
Total		3
Junior rugby league		
Junior - male	Under 11 - 17	0
Junior - female	Under 11 - 17	1
Total		1

- 4.219. The existing teams are associated to three separate clubs; Albert Park ARLFC, Halton Women and Girls ARLFC and Widnes Tigers RLFC all of which are located in Prescot, Whiston & Cronton Community Area at Parklands Sports Club. This site adjoins Knowsley's boundary with the neighbouring district of Halton, with demand having already been identified as associated displacement rather than arising from Knowsley residents.
- 4.220. The above information has been utilised to inform the team baseline data for the current situation within the PPM model, together with the additional of team equivalents as per the methodology to reflect school use and latent demand.
- 4.221. All existing pitches are adaptable for use by adult and junior age groups, therefore they are considered together as a single group for the purposes of pitch requirements.

Conversion Rates

- 4.222. Conversion rates are calculated by multiplying the number of teams by an assumed number of players per team (e.g. 20 players per team). This gives a figure for the total number of players and is then divided by the relevant population in the PPM model to provide the percentage of affiliated players within that relevant population.
- 4.223. From the analysis of these conversion rates, it is possible to determine an indication of latent demand relative to the current TGR and therefore identify potential opportunities to increase participation.
- 4.224. Table 4.54 provides a summary of Knowsley and Community Area conversion rates adapted from existing teams and displacement only, together with contextual data at a National level adapted from Sport England Primary Offer data⁵⁰.

Table 4.54: Knowsley Current Rugby League Conversion Rates

Analysis Areas	Sub Groups		Overall Average
	Adult	Junior	
Knowsley	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%
Kirkby	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Huyton	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
PWC	0.6%	1.2%	0.7%
Halewood	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
National	0.3%	3.6%	0.7%

** All figures are rounded*

- 4.225. The national average rate reflects a prospective target which can be utilised to inform growth potential rates required to address existing participation deficits in Knowsley (and its Community Areas) which are evident through comparison.

Growth Potential

- 4.226. Growth potential represents the number of teams for each rugby league age group (as derived from the TGR), that are required to reach the national average rate and therefore address latent demand.
- 4.227. The extent to which growth potential is achievable is dependent upon a combination of factors such as; sports development and promotion, provision of facilities, quality of facilities, accessibility of facilities, degree of opportunity for competitive fixtures, etc.

⁵⁰ Primary Offer Data Information Pack for Rugby League (Sport England, 2009)

- 4.228. With regard to the above, it is essential to assess the extent to which Knowsley's existing participation for rugby league sub-groups achieve the national average through comparison of conversion rates. This provides an indication of the level of headroom provided by latent demand relative to current participation rates. This can then inform an aspirational target for level of growth seeking to address existing underperformance of participation levels in addition to regular levels of growth, to thereby account for improvements provided by the strategy and provide a realistic maximum level of growth to which demand is unlikely to exceed.
- 4.229. Table 4.55 outlines the growth potential of rugby league within Knowsley (and its Community Areas) to meet the national average – the areas highlighted green represent the sub groups where the target is currently met or exceeded.

Table 4.55: Rugby League Growth Potential (Teams)

Analysis Areas	Sub Groups		Total
	Adult	Junior	
Knowsley	+6	+17	+23
Kirkby	+2	+5	+7
Huyton	+3	+7	+10
PWC	0	+2	+2
Halewood	+1	+3	+4

**baseline excludes team equivalents*

- 4.230. When considering the above, it is clear that in particular significant increases in participation within the adult and the junior sub groups will be necessary to address Knowsley's existing underperformance relative to the national average. There are also significant spatial deficiencies in team numbers resulting from the low participation rate in Knowsley which suggests a degree of latent demand that could be addressed through enhanced sports development and investment.
- 4.231. Table 4.56 provides an indication of the scale of percentage increase in teams from the current baseline required to achieve the national average.

Table 4.56: Rugby League Growth Potential (% Change in Teams) relative to national average

Analysis Areas	Sub Groups		Total
	Adult	Junior	
Knowsley	+150%	+1700%	+575%
Kirkby	+200%	+500%	+700%
Huyton	+300%	+700%	+1000%
PWC	0%	+200%	+50%
Halewood	+100%	+300%	+400%

**baseline includes team equivalents*

- 4.232. It is evident that the growth required is variable relative to certain sub-groups, and provides a level of aspiration that will be challenging to deliver as uplift between 2011 - 2028. Furthermore there is also a need to accommodate trends of uplift in growth and population change which are anticipated to influence the national average by 2028.
- 4.233. National trends suggest that participation for rugby league across existing age groups is relatively static. As a consequence the growth rates in Table 4.56 are considered sufficient to reflect the maximum potential growth between 2011 – 2028 within the PPM model which reflects changing demographics, whilst still supporting the RFL and Sport England key objectives for rugby league which are to grow and sustain participation.
- 4.234. In this regard, Table 4.57 below identifies the current surpluses and deficits of pitches relative to current supply. The detailed PPM models that inform the summary can be viewed at Appendix K.

**Table 4.57: Future PPM Supply / Peak Demand Analysis in 2028:
Rugby League**

Analysis Areas	Surplus / Deficit of Rugby League Pitches
Knowsley	-9
Kirkby	-3
Huyton	-3
PWC	-1
Halewood	-2

** Knowsley total can differ as peak demand does not occur simultaneously between areas*

- 4.235. Table 4.57 identifies that based on existing pitch provision there are potential spatial deficits relative to peak temporal demand for rugby league in Knowsley overall, and across all Community Areas (Kirkby, Huyton, Prescot, Whiston & Cronton and Halewood). In this regard, the degree of flexibility in terms of surplus pitches for other sports above maximum peak demand to respond to excess rugby league demand as it arises during the plan period will need to be assessed as part of the strategy. The consideration of this option supports a potential strategic approach of utilising minimum pitch requirements for each sport in each Community Area to calculate and supplement localised land area based standards in the future.
- 4.236. With regard to the above, temporal demand is proportionally rolled forward relative to maximum growth as part of future projections or estimated in terms of neighbouring league play in the absence of appropriate peak demand information within Table 4.11.
- 4.237. The above information is sufficient to identify maximum pitch requirements to accommodate maximum future demand during peak periods in 2028,

with a 10% uplift to allow for pitch recovery. The resultant figures are displayed in Table 4.58 below.

Table 4.58: Maximum pitch requirement for peak demand periods (+10%) by 2028 (adj for carrying capacity and rounded)

Analysis Areas	Total Rugby League Pitches Required
Knowsley	14
Kirkby	4
Huyton	5
PWC	3
Halewood	2

- 4.238. The above figures are intended to inform minimum localised standards for pitch provision to be retained that can be progressed through planning policy and reflect aspirational levels of growth by 2028. It is considered that the growth levels anticipated are unlikely to be exceeded, and reflect a best case scenario based upon successful sports development initiatives and improvement to both quality and accessibility of existing facilities. In this regard, it is extremely likely that in practical terms Knowsley’s demand will fall significantly short of the overall growth rates stated, however it is acknowledged that there is a need to ensure capacity for the upper levels of growth that could potentially be delivered.
- 4.239. With regard to the above, it is important that the position of current provision relative to pitch requirements to accommodate maximum demand plus 10% (to allow for pitch recovery in 2028) is assessed. This information is provided in Table 4.59 with only pitches which have community use included in the calculations. School playing fields without secured community use, former school sites which are redundant following Knowsley’s BSF programme and private provision are excluded.

Table 4.59: Current Rugby League provision relative to pitch requirements in 2028

Analysis Areas	Surplus / Deficit of Rugby League Pitches
Knowsley	-12
Kirkby	-4
Huyton	-4
PWC	-2
Halewood	-2

- 4.240. In terms of Table 4.59, it is apparent that the 10% uplift only has a minor effect on the supply / demand balance and creates a marginal increase in terms of pitch requirements, thereby increasing deficits for Knowsley as a whole, and the Kirkby, Huyton and Prescott, Whiston & Cronton Community Areas. However it should be noted that flexibility remains to reorganise

wider sporting provision to provide a better proportional range of pitch provision to meet future demand projections, despite no additional provision through future commitments having been identified at the present time.

- 4.241. The current and future supply position excludes dormant supply associated to pitch sites which are now considered redundant due to restructuring of school provision through the Building Schools for the Future and Primary Future Schooling programmes. In this regard it is confirmed that there were no rugby league pitches available for community use which were lost through this method. Nevertheless, the strategy should consider whether surplus land could be utilised to form new rugby league pitches to address demand, as required.
- 4.242. Aside from the balance between supply and temporal demand, the strategy will also need to consider the extent to which alternative capacity could theoretically be re-distributed amongst existing pitch sites to accommodate future projections of increased demand assuming investment to maintain and improve the quality of sites to improve carrying capacity.
- 4.243. To provide clarity to the difference between the overall pitch requirement and the influence of variations of temporal demand, a summary of current distribution of teams relative to site carrying capacity for pitches available for community use is as displayed in Table 4.60, with a full detailed list of carrying capacity of each rugby league site available at Table 4.61. In this regard, it is apparent that there is no surplus capacity for additional matches per week in Knowsley overall as existing or within the Kirkby, Prescott, Whiston & Cronton and Halewood Community Areas once school uses has been deducted. Nevertheless only Prescott, Whiston & Cronton has existing provision, which has evidence of overplay. In contrast the other available provision in Knowsley within Huyton Community Area has marginal spare capacity due to its existing pitch not being in current use.

Table 4.60: Analysis of Current Team Distribution and Site Carrying Capacity for Rugby League matches

Analysis Areas	Existing Pitch Capacity (per week)
Knowsley	0
Kirkby	0
Huyton	+1
PWC	-1
Halewood	0

- 4.244. Existing variations in peak demand in Knowsley could be accommodated by the overall quantity of pitches and associated facilities such as changing provision (as required). This is notwithstanding limitations on changing facilities which may reduce the maximum carrying capacity of sites for matches taking place at the same time, with only one of the two sites having these facilities. Overall, as per the full list in Appendix H, of the 2 total

rugby league pitch sites in Knowsley as displayed in Table 4.61, only one site is on or above existing capacity.

Table 4.61: Existing Rugby League Sites relative to Carrying Capacity

Site	CA*	Pitches	Carrying Capacity per week	Teams	Matches per week ***	+ / -
Jubilee Park	Huyton	1	1	0	0	+1
Parklands Sports Club	PWC	1	2	4	2	0

*CA Community Area

- 4.245. With reference to the above, it is apparent that the only site currently in use (Parklands Sport Club) has reached capacity due to the progressive growth of associated clubs and competing demand from other sports for pitch use. In contrast, the existing provision at Jubilee Park is unoccupied since the relocation of the former Huyton Bulldogs club to facilities outside of Knowsley and the sub-region. Intensive use of Parklands Sports Club has resulted in qualitative decline of its condition and therefore necessitates the strategy considering opportunities to reduce the demand pressure on the facility to ensure sufficient rest and recovery.
- 4.246. The strategy should also be clear that identified deficits are not intended to compel the Council to reserve land exclusively for additional rugby league pitches which will otherwise remain unused unless demand requirements and participation rates in Knowsley increase significantly. Instead it is an indicator of the need to ensure sufficient land remains available to respond to uplifts in demand during the plan period as required. It may be the case that the land in question remains more effective in alternative sporting, greenspace or informal use until required for rugby league use.

Rugby Union

- 4.247. Rugby Union is a sport with varied levels of regional participation when considered at a national level, with limited concentrations of high participation in the North West, none of which are specific to the Liverpool City Region.
- 4.248. Rugby Union development in Knowsley is the responsibility of the Rugby Football Foundation (RFF) at community level, which is in turn affiliated to the Rugby Football Union (RFU). There is also linkage to the Knowsley Council's Sports and Physical Development Team, the Knowsley Sports and Physical Activity Alliance (SPAA) and the Merseyside Sports Partnership (MSP).
- 4.249. Knowsley has no identified demand for Rugby Union at present and consequently no existing facilities. Nevertheless the development priorities to grow and sustain participation influence the potential future growth rates

of different types of rugby union in Knowsley, alongside established national trends.

- 4.250. In terms of existing circumstances, Knowsley does not currently have a specific league structure which is exclusive to its boundaries and there are no existing teams located in Knowsley. Opportunities to play Rugby Union are therefore located within neighbouring districts, including clubs such as Liverpool St. Helens RUFC (St. Helens), Sefton RUFC (Sefton), West Park RUFC (Liverpool) and Widnes RUFC (Halton), all of which have both adult and junior teams. In addition, Liverpool St. Helens RUFC also has teams for both women and girls.
- 4.251. The above information has been utilised to inform the team baseline data for the current situation within the PPM model, together with the additional of team equivalents as per the methodology to reflect school use and latent demand.

Conversion Rates

- 4.252. Conversion rates are calculated by multiplying the number of teams by an assumed number of players per team (e.g. 24 players per team). This gives a figure for the total number of players and is then divided by the relevant population in the PPM model to provide the percentage of affiliated players within that relevant population.
- 4.253. From the analysis of these conversion rates, it is possible to determine an indication of latent demand relative to the current TGR and therefore identify potential opportunities to increase participation.
- 4.254. Table 4.62 provides a summary of Knowsley and Community Area conversion rates adapted from existing teams and displacement only, together with contextual data at a National level adapted from Sport England Primary Offer data⁵¹.

Table 4.62: Knowsley Current Rugby Union Conversion Rates

Analysis Areas	Sub Groups		Overall average
	Adult	Junior	
Knowsley	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Kirkby	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Huyton	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
PWC	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Halewood	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
National	0.6%	4.7%	1.3%

** All figures are rounded*

⁵¹ Primary Offer Data Information Pack for Rugby Union (Sport England, 2009)

4.255. The national average rate reflects a prospective target which can be utilised to inform growth potential rates required to address existing participation deficits in Knowsley (and its Community Areas) which are evident through comparison.

Growth Potential

4.256. Growth potential represents the number of teams for each rugby union age group (as derived from the TGR), that are required to reach the national average rate and therefore address latent demand.

4.257. The extent to which growth potential is achievable is dependent upon a combination of factors such as; sports development and promotion, provision of facilities, quality of facilities, accessibility of facilities, degree of opportunity for competitive fixtures, etc.

4.258. With regard to the above, it is essential to assess the extent to which Knowsley’s existing participation for rugby union sub-groups achieve the national average through comparison of conversion rates. This provides an indication of the level of headroom provided by latent demand relative to current participation rates. This can then inform an aspirational target for level of growth seeking to address existing underperformance of participation levels in addition to regular levels of growth, to thereby account for improvements provided by the strategy and provide a realistic maximum level of growth to which demand is unlikely to exceed.

4.259. Table 4.63 outlines the growth potential of rugby union within Knowsley (and its Community Areas) to meet the national average – the areas highlighted green represent the sub groups where the target is currently met or exceeded.

Table 4.63: Rugby Union Growth Potential (Teams)

Analysis Areas	Sub Groups		Total
	Adult	Junior	
Knowsley	+14	+14	+28
Kirkby	+4	+4	+8
Huyton	+6	+6	+12
PWC	+2	+2	+4
Halewood	+2	+2	+4

**baseline excludes team equivalents*

4.260. When considering the above, it is clear that in particular significant increases in participation within the adult and the junior sub groups will be necessary to address Knowsley’s existing underperformance relative to the national average. There are also significant spatial deficiencies in terms of lack of teams resulting from the low participation rate in Knowsley that suggests a degree of latent demand which could be addressed through enhanced sports development and investment.

4.261. Table 4.64 provides an indication of the scale of percentage increase in teams from the current baseline required to achieve the national average. It is evident that the growth required is variable relative to certain sub-groups and in certain areas. As a consequence the target provides a level of aspiration that will be challenging to deliver as uplift between 2011 - 2028. Furthermore there is also a need to accommodate trends of uplift in growth and population change which are anticipated to influence the national average by 2028.

Table 4.64: Rugby Union Growth Potential (% Change in Teams) relative to national average

Analysis Areas	Sub Groups		Total
	Adult	Junior	
Knowsley	+1400%	+1400%	+2800%
Kirkby	+400%	+400%	+800%
Huyton	+600%	+600%	+1200%
PWC	+200%	+200%	+400%
Halewood	+200%	+200%	+400%

**baseline includes team equivalents*

4.262. National trends suggest that participation for rugby union across existing age groups is relatively static. As a consequence the growth rates in Table 4.64 are considered sufficient to reflect the maximum potential growth between 2011 – 2028 within the PPM model which reflects changing demographics, whilst still supporting the RFU, RFF and Sport England key objectives for rugby union which are to grow and sustain participation.

4.263. In this regard, Table 4.65 below identifies the current surpluses and deficits of pitches relative to current supply. The detailed PPM models that inform the summary can be viewed at Appendix K.

Table 4.65: Future PPM Supply / Peak Demand Analysis in 2028: Rugby Union

Analysis Areas	Surplus / Deficit of Rugby Union Pitches
Knowsley	-10
Kirkby	-2
Huyton	-4
PWC	-2
Halewood	-2

** Knowsley total can differ as peak demand does not occur simultaneously between areas*

4.264. Table 4.65 identifies that based on existing pitch provision there are potential spatial deficits relative to peak temporal demand for rugby union in Knowsley overall, and across all Community Areas (Kirkby, Huyton, Prescott, Whiston & Cronton and Halewood). In this regard, the degree of flexibility in terms of surplus pitches for other sports above maximum peak

demand to respond to excess rugby union demand as it arises during the plan period will need to be assessed as part of the strategy. The consideration of this option supports a potential strategic approach of utilising minimum pitch requirements for each sport in each Community Area to calculate and supplement localised land area based standards in the future.

- 4.265. With regard to the above, temporal demand is estimated relative to maximum growth as part of future projections based on neighbouring leagues in the absence of peak demand information within Table 4.11.
- 4.266. The above information is sufficient to identify pitch requirements to accommodate maximum future demand during peak periods in 2028, with a 10% uplift to allow for pitch recovery. The resultant figures are displayed in Table 4.66 below.

Table 4.66: Maximum pitch requirement for peak demand periods (+10%) by 2028 (adj for carrying capacity and rounded)

Analysis Areas	Total Rugby Union Pitches Required
Knowsley	11
Kirkby	2
Huyton	5
PWC	2
Halewood	2

- 4.267. The above figures are intended to inform minimum localised standards for pitch provision to be retained that can be progressed through planning policy and reflect aspirational levels of growth by 2028. It is considered that the growth levels anticipated are unlikely to be exceeded, and reflect a best case scenario position based upon successful sports development initiatives and improvement to both quality and accessibility of existing facilities. In this regard, it is extremely likely that in practical terms Knowsley’s demand will fall significantly short of the overall growth rates stated, however it is acknowledged that there is a need to ensure capacity for the upper levels of growth that could potentially be delivered.
- 4.268. With regard to the above, it is important that the position of current provision relative to pitch requirements to accommodate maximum demand plus 10% (to allow for pitch recovery in 2028) is assessed. This information is provided in Table 4.67.
- 4.269. The only pitches considered as part of the calculations were those which have community use. School playing fields without secured community use, former school sites which are redundant following Knowsley’s BSF programme and private provision are excluded. However it is confirmed that there is no additional provision in this context.

Table 4.67: Current Rugby Union provision relative to pitch requirements in 2028

Analysis Areas	Surplus / Deficit of Rugby Union Pitches
Knowsley	-11
Kirkby	-2
Huyton	-5
PWC	-2
Halewood	-2

- 4.270. In terms of Table 4.67, it is apparent that the 10% uplift only has a minor effect on the supply / demand balance and created a marginal increase in terms of pitch requirements, including the deficits for Knowsley as a whole, and the Huyton Community Area. However it should be noted that flexibility remains to reorganise wider sporting provision to provide a better proportional range of pitch provision to meet future demand projections, despite no additional provision through future commitments having been identified at the present time.
- 4.271. The current and future supply position excludes dormant supply associated to pitch sites which are now considered redundant due to restructuring of school provision through the Building Schools for the Future and Primary Future Schooling programmes. In this regard it is confirmed that there were no rugby union pitches available for community use which were lost through this method. Nevertheless, the strategy should consider whether surplus land could be utilised to form new rugby union pitches to address demand, if required. The absence of existing pitch provision for rugby union however removes the possibility of surplus carrying capacity being available to accommodate growth in demand.
- 4.272. Overall the strategy should be clear that identified deficits are not intended to compel the Council to reserve land exclusively for additional rugby league pitches which will otherwise remain unused unless demand requirements and participation rates in Knowsley increase significantly. Instead it is an indicator of the need to ensure sufficient land remains available to respond to uplifts in demand during the plan period as required. It may be the case that the land in question remains more effective in alternative sporting use, greenspace use or informal use until such a time as it is required for rugby union use.

The Role of Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs)

- 4.273. Aside from match use, another requirement for pitch provision relates to the availability of training / practice facilities. If players are to improve and clubs are to develop and grow they require access to suitable training facilities as well as match pitches. In this regard, training on match pitches has a negative effect upon quality issues at pitch sites through generation of wear and tear, thereby reducing maximum carrying capacity for match use.
- 4.274. In contrast to the above, artificial surfaces provide more consistent playing and practice conditions than grass. The development of Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs) has significantly altered the way some sports are played and matches are programmed. Sport England research into the use of AGPs indicates that they play two principle roles – midweek training for football and weekend matches for hockey. This is evident in Knowsley from pitch booking records and consultation responses. In particular a high proportion of Knowsley’s teams utilise the available facilities at Centres for Learning and Leisure Centres on midweek evenings for training particularly during the Autumn - Spring period, due to the quality of surface and the availability of floodlighting.
- 4.275. To accommodate club training requirements the Council reserves a number of these facilities (both AGP and indoor) during the periods of highest club demand solely for their training use. This approach has been successful in significantly reducing the demand for training being undertaken on grass pitches, which assists potential rest and recovery thereby enhancing carrying capacity for match use at a number of grass pitch sites across Knowsley’s Community Areas. This is noting that synthetic pitches do not suffer from the same issues of wear and tear, and therefore subject to appropriate maintenance – carrying capacity is not limited in the same way as for grass pitches.
- 4.276. There are currently 8No. full sized Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs) in total, with all available for public use. Of these pitches, 6No. are on Education sites and 2No. on Local Authority owned sites, and they comprise 6No. sand based surface and 2No. rubber crumb (3G) surface. At present, football is currently played on all of the AGP’s, hockey use is capable of playing on 6No. of the AGP’s (all except 3G) and rugby (league and union) are capable of being played on 2No. AGP’s (both 3G). The specific locations of these facilities are as follows;
- Christ the King Centre for Learning, Huyton (sand based)
 - Halewood Centre for Learning, Halewood (3G)
 - Huyton Arts and Sports Centre for Learning, Huyton (3G)
 - Kirkby Sports College, Kirkby (sand based)
 - Prescot Leisure Centre, PWC (x2 – both sand based)
 - Tower Hill Community Centre, Kirkby (sand based)
 - St. Edmund Arrowsmith Centre for Learning, PWC (sand based)

- 4.277. In terms of match play, due to the investment in synthetic turf pitches in Knowsley through the BSF / PFS programmes and other investment in the hub and spoke model at Leisure Centre sites in accordance with the Council's Leisure Facilities Strategy, no hockey matches are now played on grass within Knowsley. Matches are currently sequential programmed on days of peak demand based upon the availability of quantity of suitable pitches rather than dictated by quality concerns.
- 4.278. In time, the development of match use on 3G AGPs for both football and rugby may have a similar effect to hockey, noting the presence of these facilities in Huyton and Halewood, which could reduce the pressure upon grass pitches resulting from increased demand. Additional benefits of AGPs include their ability to free up sports hall space for other sports by accommodating 5-a-side football. In this regard, the popularity of 5-a-side football as a game in its own right is increasing, with existing demand in Knowsley being accommodated by modern facilities at Centres for Learning, Leisure Centres and other Hub and Community sites. This is beneficial noting that in periods of off peak demand for match use and training requirements, and outside of school hours, the pitches can be utilised to generate revenue through public use which can then be utilised to maintain alternative provision. In this context, AGPs (alongside MUGAs) also provide for the school use demands and informal needs of various sports and thereby also reduce pressure on existing grass pitches. An audit of MUGA provision is considered separately through the Council's Greenspaces Audit.
- 4.279. In view of the growing role of synthetic pitches for training (football in particular), it is essential to consider the need for additional facilities. However a cautious approach with regard to new provision is necessary given the Council's recent investment in AGP facilities which were planned to reflect the current and future supply and demand balance. In this regard, the current distribution of AGPs within each Community Area ensures that all residents are within 10 minutes travel time by car or 20 minutes travel time by public transport, with a supply of 8 total full size pitches creating a ratio of 0.05 AGPs per 1 000 residents which is marginally above the national average (0.04 AGPs per 1 000 residents). In this regard, AGPs with a 3G surface are equal to the national average (0.01 per 1 000 residents), whilst sand base surfaces at 0.04 per 1 000 residents exceed the national average (0.03 per 1 000 residents)⁵².
- 4.280. Knowsley's pitch booking records in general suggest that demand for 3G pitches is currently higher than other AGP surfaces; however the trends can only be measured for a maximum of three years and are therefore not reliable as a forecast for future growth. Instead data derived from Sport England's National Facility Audit (January 2012) for AGP's has been used in this section to provide a brief summary by applying the Facilities Planning Model criteria and parameters. The full NFA12 - AGP Knowsley Profile

⁵² All statistics sourced from Sport England Active Places Power, 2011 (www.activeplacespower.com)

Report prepared on the Council's behalf by Sport England (including the detailed methodology) is available to view at Appendix F together with associated mapping.

- 4.281. The Facilities Planning Model for AGPs should be considered separately from the pitch calculation in the Playing Pitch Assessment and Strategy given its emphasis upon broad community demand reflecting the differing nature of use of AGPs compared to grass pitches. Nevertheless it provides a good idea of likely hours of usage and the split between sports, including deductions for periods of unavailability for public use (i.e. during school hours). In this regard, it is apparent that at the present time, football has sole use of the 3G pitches with around 58 hours of community use across the 2No. pitches (29 hours each during the peak period). Across all sand based AGP's, there is more football usage than hockey – the only two sports currently played on the pitches, which is reflective of the wider participation trends in Knowsley. However the Council should be mindful in its strategy of the need to ensure each sport has an equal opportunity to access the facilities to safeguard against the possibility of displacement resulting from latent demand. It is therefore recommended that as part of the strategy, the Council liaise and consult existing AGP users with regard to management arrangements, pricing, and competition, and make adaptations accordingly.
- 4.282. NFA12 calculations identify from the number of visits per week in the peak period that demand and supply are almost in balance. However approximately 10% (hockey) and 4% (football) of total demand for AGP's is unmet demand, despite residents having an 8% higher personal share of facilities than the national average. This means that unmet demand is much lower than the national average of around 28%, with the majority for hockey and football appearing to be because the AGP's are at full capacity during the peak period and are competing for use. In this regard, it should be noted that a significant proportion of overall demand for AGP's arises from areas outside of Knowsley – 78% for hockey and 56% for football. As a consequence, hockey also experiences a higher percentage of unmet demand originating from residents living outside the catchment areas of AGP's than football. This issue of displacement again justifies a review of existing management arrangements and pricing. In particular this should identify methods whereby competition between sports can be addressed through a more equitable distribution of temporal demand and priority given to the ability of the facilities to meet local needs arising from Knowsley residents first given the AGPs are currently at 100% capacity for peak periods.
- 4.283. With regard to the above, it should be noted that small sized and planned AGPs are not included in the National Facility Audit; therefore the overall results should be treated with caution. This is noting that small sized facilities can assist in relieving demand for training and informal use. In the interest of clarity it is confirmed that Knowsley currently has 11No. small

sized AGPs (all sand based) and none currently planned. The existing small sized AGPs are in the following locations;

- Alt Youth Centre, Huyton
- Arncliffe Sports Centre, Halewood (x2)
- Halewood Leisure Centre, Halewood (x2)
- Huyton KGV, Huyton (x2)
- Kirkby Leisure Centre, Kirkby (x2)
- Knowsley Recreation Ground, Huyton
- Whiston Town Council Offices, PWC

- 4.284. In terms of quality, due to the recent delivery as part of the BSF programme, only two of the full sized AGP's were built before 2005 (both at Prescott Leisure Centre), with both of these having been subject to recent refurbishment in 2009 and one having an extant planning permission for re-surfacing to 3G. The existing AGP's are therefore unlikely to require refurbishment during the initial five year lifetime of this Strategy. However as AGP's come forward for refurbishment it would be a good opportunity to establish whether the current sport specific surface is still the most desirable or not. Sport England's document entitled 'Selecting the Right Artificial Surface'⁵³ sets out the process by which NGB's, Local Authorities and other relevant organisations should follow to establish what is the most appropriate surface for refurbished or planned AGP's. Factors include demand and supply and establishing strategic need based on NGB development plans.
- 4.285. In terms of accessibility, in all cases driving to AGP's is the most common method of transport with public transport being the least used. However, 5 AGP's (Christ the King CfL, Halewood CfL, Huyton Arts and Sports CfL, Kirkby Sports College and Tower Hill Community Centre) have a fifth or more of pitch users walk to the venue indicating these AGP's are fairly close to areas of demand.
- 4.286. Overall it would appear from the NFA12 and previous modelling undertaken to support the BSF / PFS programmes that there is adequate provision of AGPs in the general area to meet current demand. This is noting the spatial distribution and access to AGPs across all of Knowsley's Community Areas is good with overlapping catchments and the presence of two existing AGPs specifically designed for football and / or rugby (3G) in the northern (Huyton) and southern (Halewood) areas of Knowsley. This suggests that there is no immediate need to provide additional AGPs based on current and projected supply within Knowsley, particularly given the area appears to accommodate surplus demand displaced from other areas. However it is clear that a balanced approach to an improvement and maintenance of existing or future AGP supply needs to consider the appropriateness of the range of available surfaces in the future, particularly given 3G surfaces are

⁵³ Selecting the Right Artificial Surface for Hockey, Football, Rugby League and Rugby Union (Sport England, 2010)

not currently a sanctioned surface for match play by the England Hockey Board.

4.287. The above conclusion with regard to the absence of immediate need for new facilities should remain subject to the monitoring and review process of the Playing Pitch Assessment and Strategy. This is noting that further work needs to be undertaken in the future, either as part of a subsequent Playing Pitch Strategy or as a standalone assessment relating to AGPs, to establish;

- the extent to which small sized AGP's contribute to the individual sports demand and supply;
- the ongoing relationship between AGP usage and natural turf usage;
- actual hours of operation and the split between the different sports using local knowledge;
- ongoing quality assessments;
- influences and limitations upon pitch availability during peak periods, and;
- which clubs and teams use which AGP's and when and how this relates to demand and supply.

Translation of Cumulative Sports Pitch Requirements to Land Area Standards

- 4.288. '*Towards a Level Playing Field*' identifies the need to develop local standards of provision for playing pitches and other outdoor sports facilities. The NPPF also continues the existing approach of locally derived targets.
- 4.289. The Council currently has an adopted local standard based on a land based standard of 1.85 ha per 1 000 residents for outdoor sports provision (playing pitches and other facilities) within the UDP and the associated Greenspace Standards and New Development SPD. The current standard as informed by Knowsley's Open Space, Recreation and Sport Needs Assessment and Strategy completed in 2005, was influenced by the inclusion of school playing fields, which at the time comprised more than 50% of the overall provision within Knowsley, together with the exclusion of golf courses. As a consequence it provided an uplift relative to the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA), which is now known as Fields in Trust (FiT), 'Six Acre Standard' as reviewed in 2001. This recommended a minimum standard of 1.6 hectares (four acres) per 1 000 people for outdoor sports. Within this, there was a specific allocation of at least 1.2 hectares (three acres) of land for pitch sports, with the remaining balance (i.e. 0.4 hectares or one acre) being required for non-pitch sports such as athletics, tennis and bowls.
- 4.290. The NPFA / FiT 'Six Acre Standard' has previously been used extensively as a baseline by Local Authorities to define local minimum standards for provision of outdoor sports facilities. However it is now recognised that this national standard cannot be relied upon at a local level, as it does not account for variations in quality, accessibility of facilities, different demographics which influence levels of demand (including latent) and the density of built development in a local area. In this context, these factors which can actually vary the sporting provision requirements at a smaller scale than Local Authority level, hence the use of Community Areas within Knowsley.
- 4.291. With regard to the above, it is also considered that the current standard of 1.85ha per 1 000 residents for outdoor sports provision requires review and potential updates. This is noting that the school facilities previously included in the provision were largely not available for community use and therefore the provision is either exaggerated by the inclusion of school only provision, or underestimated due to the exclusion of golf courses. This is despite recent enhancement by the community agreements secured at Centres for Learning.
- 4.292. As a consequence, in order that the strategy links with the wider policy context of greenspace provision and the associated NPPF requirements, Knowsley will need to provide updated locally derived standards. In this regard it is appropriate to provide an indication of Knowsley's benchmark position relative to the national recommendation of 1.21 hectares (three acres) of land for pitch sports to assess the extent to which this compares to

the recommended pitch. Table 4.68 below, therefore includes the current position, together with details relating to future provision.

Table 4.68: Knowsley Analysis against NPFA / FiT Three Acre Standard (1.21 ha)

	Area				
	Knowsley	Kirkby	Huyton	Prescot, Whiston & Cronton	Halewood
Population	149 361	41 599	59 851	26 439	21 472
Requirement relative to Standard	180.72	50.33	72.42	31.99	25.98
Current Provision (ha)	162.34	39.36	68.72	30.08	24.18
Provision per 1 000 residents	1.09	0.95	1.15	1.14	1.13
Surplus / Deficit (ha)	-18.38	-10.97	-3.70	-1.91	-1.80
Future provision per 1 000 residents	6.72	5.62	0.00	0.00	1.1
Resultant Surplus / Deficit (ha)	-11.66	-5.35	-3.70	-1.91	-0.70

- 4.293. When considering Table 4.68, it is evident that there is an overall deficit in Knowsley of -18.38 ha of playing pitches in terms of land area relative to the 1.21 ha per 1 000 residents suggested national standard. There are also deficits in all four Community Areas; Kirkby (-10.97), Huyton (-3.70), Prescot, Whiston and Cronton (-1.91) and Halewood (-1.80). Furthermore, whilst there are existing commitments in the form of future provision being delivered, the net additional land area would only reduce the scale of existing deficits in Kirkby and Halewood, and Knowsley overall.
- 4.294. The potential consequences of the above, are that the adoption of a land area based standard applicable to the Council's four Community Areas within the Greenspace Standards and New Development SPD would require the following to meet the standard;
- Kirkby – retention of a minimum of 5.35 ha of land comprising former school sites for outdoor sports use (or alternatively the equivalent additional land) presuming all existing commitments are delivered, or up to 10.97 ha of land comprising former school sites for outdoor sports use (or alternatively the equivalent additional land) if no existing commitments are delivered.

- Huyton – retention of a minimum of 3.70 ha of land comprising former school sites for outdoor sports use (or alternatively the equivalent additional land), noting there are no existing commitments.
- Prescott, Whiston and Cronton - retention of a minimum of 1.91 ha of land comprising former school sites for outdoor sports use (or alternatively the equivalent additional land), noting there are no existing commitments.
- Halewood - requirement to meet the standard for the retention of a minimum of 0.70 ha of land comprising former school sites for outdoor sports use (or alternatively the equivalent additional land) presuming all existing commitments are delivered, and up to 1.80 ha of land comprising former school sites for outdoor sports use (or alternatively the equivalent additional land) if no existing commitments are delivered.

4.295. With regard to the above, the current deficit in land area standards is in direct contrast with analysis of the actual supply balance relative to current and future projections of demand requirements for playing pitches identified through the PPM model. This suggests that the NPFA / FiT recommended land area standards are an over-estimation relative to Knowsley (and its Community Areas) requirements. In this context, the imposition of a standardised land based standard is not considered to reflect local needs, and therefore should be adjusted to better reflect actual pitch provision relative to projected future land requirements at a local level.

4.296. To address the above, it is considered preferable to identify the minimum land requirements to meet the minimum individual pitch sports requirements identified within Tables 4.23, 4.37, 4.49, 4.58 and 4.66.

4.297. The resultant land requirements are displayed in Table 4.69 and are calculated on the basis of maximum pitch dimensions assumptions for each pitch sport with individual pitch areas as follows;

- Cricket pitch: 1.3 ha
- Adult football pitch: 1.2 ha
- Junior football pitch: 0.6 ha
- Mini football pitch: 0.2 ha
- Hockey pitch: 0.65 ha
- Rugby League pitch: 0.95 ha
- Rugby Union pitch: 1.25 ha

Table 4.69: Land Area Translation of Maximum Pitch Requirements in 2028 (ha) - rounded

Sport	Community Area				Knowsley Total
	Kirkby	Huyton	Prescot, Whiston & Cronton	Halewood	
Cricket	6.5 ha	9.1 ha	3.9 ha	2.6 ha	22.1 ha
Adult Football	12.0 ha	15.6 ha	6.0 ha	3.6 ha	37.2 ha
Junior Football	7.8 ha	9.6 ha	6.0 ha	7.2 ha	30.6 ha
Mini Football	1.4 ha	1.6 ha	0.8 ha	0.8 ha	4.6 ha
Hockey	1.3 ha	1.3 ha	1.3 ha	0.7 ha	4.6 ha
Rugby League	3.8 ha	4.8 ha	2.9 ha	1.9 ha	13.4 ha
Rugby Union	2.5 ha	6.3 ha	2.5 ha	2.5 ha	13.8 ha
Total	35.3 ha	48.3 ha	23.4 ha	19.3 ha	

4.298. The above information is valuable from a baseline perspective in terms of land area requirements for pitches relative to future projections. However this needs to be translated to a potential local standard measurable relative to population size.

4.299. Table 4.70 therefore provides the localised standards translation per sport in hectares per 1 000 residents based on the maximum pitch / land area requirements.

Table 4.70: Prospective Localised Standards Translation per Sport per 1 000 residents (ha) in 2028 - rounded

Sport	Community Area				Knowsley Average
	Kirkby	Huyton	Prescot, Whiston & Cronton	Halewood	
Cricket	0.16 ha	0.15 ha	0.15 ha	0.12 ha	0.15 ha
Adult Football	0.29 ha	0.26 ha	0.23 ha	0.17 ha	0.25 ha
Junior Football	0.19 ha	0.16 ha	0.23 ha	0.34 ha	0.21 ha
Mini Football	0.03 ha	0.03 ha	0.03 ha	0.04 ha	0.03 ha
Hockey	0.03 ha	0.02 ha	0.05 ha	0.03 ha	0.03 ha
Rugby League	0.09 ha	0.08 ha	0.11 ha	0.09 ha	0.09 ha
Rugby Union	0.06 ha	0.11 ha	0.10 ha	0.12 ha	0.09 ha
Total	0.85 ha	0.81 ha	0.90 ha	0.91 ha	0.85 ha

- 4.300. The information in Table 4.70 provides an indication of the minimum threshold for local standards relative to playing pitch provision. However in reality the total land area provision is not 100% efficient in terms of conversion to playing pitch area (inclusive of safety margins). This is noting the requirement for associated facilities (i.e, changing rooms, MUGAs and car parking), together with constraints such as topography and ground conditions which reduce the net area available for playing pitch provision.
- 4.301. In view of the above, it was necessary to identify an appropriate proportion of headroom to apply as flexibility to any potential standard. This is a reasonable approach to accommodate the conversion rate of gross area to net useable playing pitch area. To inform this process it was considered appropriate to identify the range of existing conversion rates from a sample of established pitch sites in Knowsley's Community Areas. In this regard it was identified that there was a general range of 73 – 78% of total land provision per site that is suitable to form a playing pitch. It was therefore considered that an assumption of a 75% conversion rate would be a reasonable expectation as an average across Knowsley. As a consequence this necessitates the addition 25% of land flexibility to be applied to any baseline standard.
- 4.302. Table 4.71 provides the appropriate adjustments for the 25% headroom flexibility above land area requirements for future playing pitch demand upon which a local standard could be based.

Table 4.71: Prospective Local Land Area Standards per Sport per 1 000 residents (ha) in 2028 (includes 25% flexibility)

Sport	Community Area				Knowsley Average
	Kirkby	Huyton	Prescot, Whiston & Cronton	Halewood	
Cricket	0.20 ha	0.19 ha	0.19 ha	0.15 ha	0.19 ha
Adult Football	0.36 ha	0.33 ha	0.29 ha	0.21 ha	0.31 ha
Junior Football	0.24 ha	0.20 ha	0.29 ha	0.43 ha	0.26 ha
Mini Football	0.04 ha	0.04 ha	0.04 ha	0.05 ha	0.04 ha
Hockey	0.04 ha	0.03 ha	0.06 ha	0.04 ha	0.04 ha
Rugby League	0.11 ha	0.10 ha	0.14 ha	0.11 ha	0.11 ha
Rugby Union	0.08 ha	0.14 ha	0.12 ha	0.15 ha	0.11 ha
Total	1.07 ha	1.03 ha	1.13 ha	1.14 ha	1.06 ha

- 4.303. It is clear from Table 4.71 that even considering the headroom flexibility to accommodate the conversion rate of total land area to land capable of forming a playing pitch, the local requirements are far lower than the

national benchmark. This is possibly due to the exclusion of other types of outdoor sports provision such as golf courses.

- 4.304. With regard to the above, it is appropriate to provide an indication of the current position relative to the prospective local standards. Table 4.72 below, includes the current position of community available facilities, together with details relating to future provision.

Table 4.72: Knowsley Analysis against Prospective Local Land Area Standards per 1 000 residents (ha)

	Area				
	Knowsley *	Kirkby	Huyton	Prescot, Whiston & Cronton	Halewood
Population	149 361	41 599	59 851	26 439	21 472
Requirement relative to Standard	160.52	44.51	61.65	29.88	24.48
Current Provision (ha)	162.34	39.36	68.72	30.08	24.18
Provision per 1 000 residents	1.09	0.95	1.15	1.14	1.13
Surplus / Deficit (ha)	1.82	-5.15	7.07	0.20	-0.30
Future provision per 1 000 residents	6.72	5.62	0.00	0.00	1.1
Resultant Surplus / Deficit (ha)	8.54	0.47	7.07	0.20	0.8

* Knowsley total reflects cumulative requirement derived from Community Area standards

- 4.305. Table 4.72, identifies that there is an overall surplus in Knowsley of 1.82 ha of playing pitches in terms of land area relative to the prospective Community Area standards per 1 000 residents. There are also surpluses in two of the four Community Areas; Huyton (7.07 ha) and Prescot, Whiston and Cronton (0.2 ha), with existing deficits in Kirkby (-5.15 ha) and Halewood (-0.30 ha). However the existing commitments in the form of future provision being delivered, would address these existing deficits to create a marginal surplus in Kirkby (0.47 ha) and in Halewood (0.8 ha).
- 4.306. The implications of the above, are that the adoption of an associated land area based standard applicable to the Council's four Community Areas within the Greenspace Standards and New Development SPD would require the following to meet the standard;

- Kirkby – the standard would be satisfied with no significant buffer presuming all existing commitments are delivered, without the need for the retention of any former school sites (i.e. those not included in current calculations). Otherwise up to 5.15 ha of land comprising former school sites for outdoor sports use (or alternatively the equivalent additional land) may be required if some existing commitments are not delivered.
- Huyton – the standard is currently satisfied, therefore all former school and other dormant sites (i.e. those not included in current calculations) would be capable of release. There is also sufficient flexibility to allow potential release of suitable outdoor sports land in other areas that could be suitable for consolidation to address wider regeneration priorities (i.e. sections of Pool Hey), ensure cost effective management and direct investment where it is most required.
- Prescott, Whiston and Cronton - the standard would be satisfied with a slight buffer, without the need for the retention of any former school and other dormant sites (i.e. those not included in current calculations). However there is limited prospect for release of additional land which contributes to current provision calculations.
- Halewood - the standard would be satisfied with a slight buffer, presuming all existing commitments are delivered, without the need for the retention of any dormant or former school sites (i.e. those not included in current calculations). Otherwise up to 0.30ha of land comprising former school sites for outdoor sports use (or alternatively the equivalent additional land) may be required if some existing commitments are not delivered.

4.307. The adoption of these potential standards would justify a strategic approach to playing pitch provision which prioritises investment in upgrades to the quality and accessibility of existing pitch sites, to improve density and carrying capacity, as opposed to pursuing additional land beyond existing commitments.

Standards for Non-PPM Sports

4.308. The application of the Sport England PPM methodology cannot provide an accurate picture for non-pitch sports in Knowsley such as athletics, bowls, tennis and netball. This is noting the scale of informal participation and the extent of indoor provision relative to demand. In this regard, indoor provision has been considered separately in the Greenspaces Audit. However to ensure local standards for outdoor sports provision are comprehensive, there is a requirement to consider non-pitch provision in setting standards.

4.309. In terms of existing demand for non-pitch sports, there are evident low participation rates and no significant evidence of latent demand. This is noting that the existing facilities in Knowsley, although limited from a quantitative perspective, are generally good quality and accessible, having in most cases having been subject to recent investment by the Council, or otherwise being privately managed. This suggests that there are adequate

opportunities for local residents. However many of the publicly owned facilities are underused for formal team play, thereby comprising informal provision only, whilst the private facilities have been built and maintained by the clubs in-situ. This is despite recent investment via the Building Schools for the Future programme in publicly available facilities to meet existing demand.

- 4.310. In the context of the above, it would not be anticipated that there will be significant demand for additional provision, given the increased carrying capacity of facilities provided by recent investment, including the enhancement of indoor sports facilities and the scale of existing dormant supply. This is noting that even large proportionate increases in participation are unlikely to require new facilities. As a consequence, it is expected that the focus for the future should be in maintaining the overall quantity of existing provision, whilst prioritising improvements to quality and accessibility of facilities. The extent of existing provision should therefore inform the baseline of any subsequent standard. This is provided in Table 4.73 below.

Table 4.73: Knowsley Non-Pitch Provision in Land Area

	Area				
	Knowsley	Kirkby	Huyton	Prescot, Whiston & Cronton	Halewood
Population	149 361	41 599	59 851	26 439	21 472
Current Provision (ha)	11.85	3.59	4.90	2.10	1.26
Provision per 1 000 residents	0.08	0.09	0.08	0.08	0.06

- 4.311. Table 4.73 indicates that there is a degree of consistency with regard to the existing non-pitch provision in Knowsley’s Community Areas per resident, aside from Halewood which has a marginally lower proportion. This would suggest that an appropriate threshold for retention would be to apply the Knowsley average across the locality as a quantity standard.
- 4.312. The application of a Knowsley standard of 0.08 ha of non-pitch sport land per 1 000 residents would create a marginal surplus in three of the four Community Areas of up to (including rounding); Kirkby (+0.46 ha), Huyton (+0.40 ha), Prescot, Whiston & Cronton (+0.11 ha) and a marginal deficit in Halewood (-0.12 ha).
- 4.313. It is anticipated that the non-pitch sport standard would be most appropriately applied both individually and in cumulative with any pitch sport quantity standard. This will provide a dual contingency to ensure that firstly there is sufficient land available to non-pitch sports and secondly that non-

pitch sport use is not being unnecessarily eroded in areas of surplus (i.e. by creating a minimum requirement).

4.314. With regard to the above, it is apparent that the application of such a standard would have the following consequences in each of the Community Areas;

- Kirkby: safeguard all existing non pitch provision (unless alternative provision is provided) until the delivery of existing pitch provision commitments, after which a limited proportion (up to 13%) of surplus non-pitch sport land could be considered for release.
- Huyton; allows limited potential release of surplus non-pitch sport land (up to 8%) without replacement, with the majority anticipated to be associated to the former Huyton Leisure Centre (0.27 ha) which has now been replaced by the Huyton Leisure and Culture Park.
- Prescott, Whiston & Cronton; allows limited potential release of surplus non-pitch sport land (up to 5%) without replacement.
- Halewood; safeguards all existing non pitch sport provision, unless suitable replacement provision is offered.

4.315. In addition to the above, it should be noted that the identified deficit in Halewood is not overlooked through the implementation of a cumulative standard. This is noting that sufficient surplus land is available as part of existing playing pitch provision to address the deficiency, with opportunities remaining at multi sport pitch sites where non-pitch sports are often suitable to co-locate.

4.316. Golf courses are excluded from the calculation standards and therefore a presumption in favour of their retention should be considered separately as part of policy preparation. The revised standards can be taken forward as part of the Knowsley Local Plan, together with a review of existing standards within the Greenspace Standards and New Development SPD.

Section 5:

Strategy Recommendations

Strategy Recommendations

- 5.1. Playing pitches have an important role in supporting the Council's delivery of its corporate objectives with the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) by providing accessible outdoor sports provision for local residents.
- 5.2. Providing an appropriate level of provision also assists the Council's objective to achieve its sports participation targets, whilst the location, quality and accessibility of playing pitches available to the local community remains an important factor when considering the suitability of local provision and the application of local standards.
- 5.3. The application of Sport England's Playing Pitch Methodology and a detailed analysis of the current and future supply and demand for pitch sports have been presented in the previous Sections 3 and 4.
- 5.4. This section outlines the key issues arising from the analysis and the implications of these for provision of pitches in Knowsley and its constituent Community Areas by providing:
 - the vision for the pitch provision, quality and accessibility;
 - aims and objectives;
 - the principles of the strategy;
 - recommended actions for up to fifteen years specific to each sport and Community Area.

Summary of Key Issues for Pitch Supply

- 5.5. The key issues arising from the pitch supply information within Section 3 are as follows:
 - The ratio of pitches to adult population is 1 to 1 969, which is marginally better than the national and Liverpool City Region averages, but worse than three of the five adjoining Local Authorities; Sefton, West Lancashire and Halton, the latter of which is also a demographic benchmark for Knowsley identified by ONS / CIPFA.
 - The proportion of the total pitches available for community use in comparison to the major local authorities is the second highest in the Liverpool City Region (behind only Wirral) with 68% of pitches identified as publicly accessible to varying degrees. The pitches within this category are considered to be a more accurate measure of available supply than the initial ratio of pitches to population.
 - The majority providers of the 143 pitches available for community use within Knowsley are the Local Authority and local parishes comprising all of the 81 pitches (57% of the total) within their ownership / management, supplemented by secured community use of school facilities comprising 50 pitches (35% of the total) and provision of 12 pitches offered by commercial providers (8% of the total). However the school and commercial provision available for community use comprises only 55% and 32% of the total supply within these respective categories.

- Site assessments identified that the quality of pitches across the Knowsley was good, with 94 pitches (66%) rated as good or better and only 26 pitches (18%) being below average or worse. This was supported by feedback from consultation with Council officers, clubs and league representatives who generally offered that pitch quality was generally good across the Borough, although some site specific issues remain and are considered further as part of the Action Plan.
- The quality of changing accommodation (where present) is generally high, with 75% rated as good or better through site assessments and supported by consultation feedback. Only one site was rated as poor quality – Prescott KGV (Browns Field).
- There is a generally correlation between increased quality of facilities and increased usage, however some anomalies remain in terms of varied patterns of usage relative to provision for certain sports in localised areas.
- There is a clear trend of increased pitch quality being associated to increased site size in terms of number of pitches, with the general tendency of larger sites to also be more likely to include changing facilities.
- There is the possibility of securing additional community use agreements with some schools in the future to provide supplementary supply to those existing.
- There is evidence of displaced demand arising from consultation responses, between sub-areas of Knowsley and also between Knowsley and other districts.

Summary of Key Issues for Each Sport

- 5.6. A summary of the key issues and outcomes in the Section 4 sub-sections relating to demand relative to each individual sport are as follows.

Cricket

- 5.7. The key findings relative to cricket provision within Knowsley and its Community Areas are as follows;
- There are only concentrated areas of participation at present focused upon Huyton with 9 teams in total (6 adult, 3 junior). Consequently there is an existing oversupply of grass fields across the District, with 9 available for community use, but only 2 currently in use.
 - Presuming increases in participation rate occur in the period to 2028 relative to latent demand, there would be a resultant deficit of grass cricket fields at a Knowsley level (-10) and in all four Community Areas; Kirkby (-5), Huyton (-4), Prescott, Whiston & Cronton (0) and Halewood (-1).
 - There is however sufficient flexibility associated to surplus land and playing pitches relating to other sports to provide sufficient supply to accommodate demand as it arises.
 - In terms of quality and accessibility, the cricket fields at the Centres for Learning are all good quality but none are currently in use, whereas the

other provision in use varies from good (Huyton CC) to poor (Whitefield CC, Court Hey Park) and are in need of investment in terms of both their field / pitches and associated facilities, including changing facilities.

Football

- 5.8. The key findings relative to football provision within Knowsley and its Community Areas are as follows;
- Adult football pitches
 - Current oversupply at a Knowsley level (+33) and for all four Community Areas; Kirkby (+9), Huyton (+8), Prescott, Whiston & Cronton (+8), and Halewood (+5) relative to respective peak demand periods.
 - Projected oversupply relative to pitch requirements in 2028 at a Knowsley level (+16) and for all four Community Areas; Kirkby (+5), Huyton (+1), Prescott, Whiston & Cronton (+6) and Halewood (+4), with further additions to provision anticipated through existing commitments.
 - Junior football pitches
 - Current oversupply at a Knowsley level (+23) and three of the four Community Areas; Kirkby (+1), Huyton (+15) and Prescott, Whiston & Cronton (+7) relative to respective peak demand periods. However there is a small undersupply in Halewood (-1) which is anticipated will be addressed through existing commitments.
 - Projected undersupply relative to pitch requirements in 2028 at a Knowsley level (-1) and for two of the four Community Areas; Kirkby (-6) and Halewood (-4). In this regard, the anticipated deficits are anticipated to be addressed through further additions to provision through existing commitments and remodelling of surplus adult provision. The other two Community Areas are both projected to have the following oversupply; Huyton (+5) and Prescott, Whiston and Cronton (+4).
 - There is a national trend for increased junior football participation, and analysis for Knowsley and its Community Areas suggest a similar local trend.
 - The future growth trend in youth participation is likely to see increased pressure on junior pitches, notwithstanding an absence of active age population growth.
 - Mini football pitches
 - Current oversupply at a Knowsley level (+19) and for all four Community Areas; Kirkby (+4), Huyton (+4), Prescott, Whiston & Cronton (+5), and Halewood (+6) relative to respective peak demand periods.
 - Projected oversupply relative to pitch requirements in 2028 at a Knowsley level (+5) and three of the four Community Areas; Huyton (+1), Prescott, Whiston & Cronton (+2) and Halewood (+4) relative to respective peak demand periods. However there is a small

undersupply in Kirkby (-2) which is anticipated will be addressed through existing commitments.

- Site assessments of all types of football pitch suggest that existing pitches in use by clubs are of fair quality on average, with good ancillary facilities present at a number of sites within Knowsley. In this regard, the quality in the respective Community Areas is varied with the Kirkby Community Area having the lowest proportion of good quality facilities when considered pro-rata, although pockets of poor quality facilities remain across the Borough and will require targeted investment.
 - Consultation results revealed that there was some concern about the quality and accessibility of facilities at some of the smaller sites.
- 5.9. The proposed strategy also needs to be mindful of the emerging recommendations of the FA's ongoing Youth Development Review with the possibility of a new player pathway being phased in between seasons 2012/13 and 2013/14. This is expected to see the introduction of two new formats of the game, with Under 7s and Under 8s playing 5-a-side, Under 9s and Under 10s playing 7-a-side, with 9-a-side becoming mandatory for Under 11s and Under 12s and also remaining an option for all ages up to Under 16s.
- 5.10. As a consequence of the above, appropriate flexibility in terms of available land area will be required for junior and mini football pitches to adapt to the requirements of each format of the game – 5v5, 7v7, 9v9, 11v11 – which would be played on pitches of suitable sizes, with age appropriate goals and ball sizes.
- 5.11. A final decision on the implementation of the FA's new player pathway together with the recommended dimensions of the new pitches is expected during 2012. The general expectation in this regard is that Knowsley may require more pitches to accommodate additional teams generated by the nature of junior football moving toward smaller sided teams. However the pitches are also likely to be smaller on average, therefore the Council's approach to pitch and land based standards would not be compromised.

Hockey

- 5.12. The key findings relative to hockey provision within Knowsley and its Community Areas are as follows;
- There are only concentrated areas of participation at present in Kirkby and Prescot and all relate to adult teams (9 in total). Consequently there is an existing oversupply of synthetic hockey pitches across the District, with 10 pitches available for community use, but only 3 currently in active use.
 - Presuming increases in participation occur in the period to 2028 relative to latent demand, there would be a resultant marginal surplus of pitches at a Knowsley level (+1), with one Community Area in surplus; Prescot, Whiston and Cronton (+1) and the remainder with a neutral supply / demand balance.

- Some flexibility will however be required in Huyton and Halewood for further investment in non-3G synthetic pitches in the event that the restriction on 3G pitches for match use is not lifted by the EHB and demand rises.
- Pitch quality is generally good due to recent investment, as part of the BSF programme and site specific interventions.
- In terms of anticipated change, there is an existing two-pitch site (deemed important to develop all day hockey) in Prescot, Whiston & Cronton, however there are proposals to diversify the use of one of these pitches to provide additional 5-a-side football capacity.

5.13. National trends in hockey show a slight decrease in school participation but a significant increase in junior club membership. This is not reflected in Knowsley as there are no existing junior teams.

Rugby League

- 5.14. The key findings relative to rugby league provision within Knowsley and its Community Areas are as follows;
- Low participation rates are reflected in the limited number of existing Rugby League teams (4) and pitches (2), with more adult teams (3) than junior teams (1).
 - Presuming increases in participation rate occur in the period to 2028 relative to latent demand, there would be a resultant deficit of grass pitches at a Knowsley level (-12) and in all four Community Areas; Kirkby (-4), Huyton (-4), Prescot, Whiston & Cronton (-2) and Halewood (-2).
 - Adequate flexibility associated to surplus land and playing pitches relating to other sports to provide sufficient supply to accommodate demand as it arises.
 - In terms of quality and accessibility, the two pitches vary from good (Parklands Sports Club, Cronton) to fair (Jubilee Park, Huyton), with only the former currently in use.

Rugby Union

- 5.15. The key findings relative to rugby union provision within Knowsley and its Community Areas are as follows;
- Low participation rates given the absence of existing Rugby Union teams or pitches.
 - Presuming increases in participation rate occur in the period to 2028 relative to latent demand, there would be a resultant deficit of grass pitches at a Knowsley level (-11) and in all four Community Areas; Kirkby (-2), Huyton (-5), Prescot, Whiston & Cronton (-2) and Halewood (-2).
 - Adequate flexibility associated to surplus land and playing pitches relating to other sports to provide sufficient supply accommodate demand as it arises.

Key Issues for the Strategy Arising from Consultation

- 5.16. Consultation with local clubs suggested that the key problematic issues were as follows;
- Limited external funding (43% of respondents)
 - Availability and quality of local facilities (40% of respondents)
 - Limited internal funding (29% of respondents)
 - Information about local facilities and services (28% of respondents)
 - Poor / no relationship with local clubs (17% of respondents)
- 5.17. The above issues inform the objectives of the strategy alongside the key findings of the supply / demand information for each sport.

Objectives of the Strategy

- 5.18. Knowsley Council has a primary role in enabling, co-ordinating and managing provision of playing pitches for local residents in assisting the improvement of participation rates in outdoor sports.
- 5.19. The overarching objectives with regard to Knowsley's approach are informed on the principles of:
- provision of a range of high quality sites across Knowsley, whilst ensuring that all residents have access to local facilities;
 - promoting sustainable development through ensuring the long term sustainability of pitch provision;
 - utilising opportunities relating to economies of scale by prioritising enhancement of larger sites and reducing reliance upon single site pitches and smaller facilities, where possible;
 - enabling the maximum efficiency of existing provision and facilities by promoting their availability for use by the local community, together with the range of sporting opportunities which they provide,
 - working in partnership with key stakeholders, pitch providers, local communities, educational providers, private sector, etc, and;
 - a requirement to ensure an ongoing process of data collation to inform the process of regular monitoring and review.
- 5.20. As per the above, the Council cannot deliver the objectives in isolation and therefore incorporates existing partnership working with other providers, including parish councils and private operators to ensure the effective delivery of sport in Knowsley and its associated Community Areas. Partnership working is critical to the success of the delivery of this strategy. The need to improve health outcomes through increased physical activity increases the importance of effective accommodation for pitch sports to provide opportunities for increased sports participation.
- 5.21. To support the above, the current policy approaches and strategy documents inform the preparation of the strategy by providing a framework which seeks to:

- ensure the quantity of pitches is sufficient to meet the current and projected future needs / demands of residents within Knowsley and the local variations in its associated Community Areas;
- ensure pitches and ancillary facilities are of an appropriate quality and design to serve the current and projected future need / demand requirements of Knowsley and the local variations in its associated Community Areas;
- maximise access for local residents to all existing and new facilities for a range of sporting opportunities, and;
- secure effective management and maintenance of existing and new facilities in the most efficient manner, including consideration of the role of revenue generation and its ability to cross subsidise existing and new provision.

Delivering the Strategy for Knowsley and its Community Areas

5.22. The delivery of the overarching strategy principles, objectives and vision for playing pitch provision can be facilitated by the Council through the following seven core policy objectives;

- 1) Ensure that the quantity of provision is above the minimum local standards, including sufficient headroom allowing for rest and recovery of pitch sites.
- 2) Establish a hierarchy of provision and protect all pitch sites of Borough, Community and Neighbourhood significance in the interest of quality and accessibility.
- 3) Maintain an ongoing programme of improvements across Council pitch sites including directing investment towards identified upgrades required to meet quality and accessibility standards, and ensuring that all new residential developments contribute to pitch provision.
- 4) Promote joint and partnership working across the Council and with key stakeholders in the provision of playing pitches, including providing support to partners (i.e. local clubs and pitch providers) in the maintenance, improvement and enhancement of their facilities.
- 5) Enhance community access to school pitch provision where required.
- 6) Ensure facilities offer a transparent and consistent calculation method for pitch rental costs, which remains affordable and accessible to all local clubs.
- 7) Provide efficient pitch booking systems which are accessible to local residents.

5.23. The seven objectives are outlined in more detail below.

Objective 1 – Local Quantity Standards

5.24. The recommended approach for Knowsley aims to ensure that the quantity of provision is above the minimum local standards, including sufficient headroom to allow for rest and recovery of pitch sites. This will ensure that the quality of pitches does not deteriorate over the course of a season or from year to year.

- 5.25. Local standards are currently provided within the Knowsley UDP and are land area based only for outdoor sports provision at a rate of 1.85 ha per 1 000 people which applied to the whole of Knowsley. This is a comparable approach to the National Playing Fields Association (now known as Fields in Trust) 'Six Acre Standard' which recommends a minimum standard of 1.6 hectares (four acres) per 1 000 people for outdoor sports, with a specific allocation of at least 1.2 hectares (three acres) of land for pitch sports. The balance (i.e. 0.4 hectares or one acre) being required for non-pitch sports such as athletics, tennis and bowls.
- 5.26. The outcomes of the Playing Pitch Assessment in terms of supply and demand enable the development of recommended updates to existing local standards. This is noting that whilst Local Authorities have previously used the NPFA 'Six Acre Standard' approach of a specific land area to define local minimum standards for provision of outdoor sports facilities, it is now recognised that there are limitations to this approach. This is due to the standard not reflecting;
- variations in local circumstances including current and future demand;
 - consideration of unmet demand, or;
 - efficiency of provision, quality and accessibility of pitch sites.
- 5.27. It is therefore considered that Community Area specific minimum standards relating to pitch provision for football, cricket, rugby and hockey with appropriate age group requirements, should inform land area standards to ensure appropriate protection. Using the supply and demand audit calculations in Sections 3 and 4, the recommended local quantity standards for Community Areas have been identified in Table 5.1 overleaf.
- 5.28. The assessed level of provision is based upon the supply of accessible land (measured in hectares, based on standard PPM assumptions) in each analysis area, divided by the population in that analysis area. These recommended standards do not include golf courses (which should be retained through separate policy restrictions) or school provision which is not available for community use.
- 5.29. As per the detailed analysis in Section 4, it is apparent that the application of the recommended standards would have the following consequences in each of the Community Areas;
- Kirkby; safeguard all existing pitch and non pitch provision (unless alternative provision is provided) until the delivery of existing pitch provision commitments, after which a limited proportion of surplus non-pitch sport land could be considered for release.
 - Huyton; allows limited potential release of surplus pitch and non-pitch sport land without replacement.
 - Prescott, Whiston & Cronton; allows limited potential release of surplus pitch and non-pitch sport land without replacement.
 - Halewood; safeguards all existing pitch and non pitch sport provision, unless suitable replacement provision is offered.

**Table 5.1: Recommended Local Standards by Sport / Area
(per 1 000 residents)**

Sport	Community Area			
	Kirkby	Huyton	Prescot, Whiston & Cronton	Halewood
Cricket	0.20 ha	0.19 ha	0.19 ha	0.15 ha
Adult Football	0.36 ha	0.33 ha	0.29 ha	0.21 ha
Junior Football	0.24 ha	0.20 ha	0.29 ha	0.43 ha
Mini Football	0.04 ha	0.04 ha	0.04 ha	0.05 ha
Hockey	0.04 ha	0.03 ha	0.06 ha	0.04 ha
Rugby League	0.11 ha	0.10 ha	0.14 ha	0.11 ha
Rugby Union	0.08 ha	0.14 ha	0.12 ha	0.15 ha
Pitch Provision	1.07 ha	1.03 ha	1.13 ha	1.14 ha
Non-Pitch Provision	0.08 ha	0.08 ha	0.08 ha	0.08 ha
Overall Total per 1 000 residents	1.15 ha	1.11 ha	1.21 ha	1.22 ha

5.30. The land based standards in Table 5.1 are intended to ensure sufficient flexibility is retained in terms of land area to accommodate the following minimum pitch requirements for each sport, as per Table 5.2, to respond to demand as it arises up to the forecast levels in 2028.

Table 5.2: Recommended Pitch Standards by Sport / Area

Sport	Community Area				Knowsley Total
	Kirkby	Huyton	Prescot, Whiston & Cronton	Halewood	
Cricket	5	7	3	2	17
Adult Football	10	13	5	3	31
Junior Football	13	16	10	12	51
Mini Football	7	8	4	4	23
Hockey	2	2	2	1	7
Rugby League	4	5	3	2	14
Rugby Union	2	5	2	2	11

5.31. The recommended land area standards for outdoor sports provision available for community use should be progressed through the planning

process with appropriate consultation, and will need to remain subject to regular monitoring and review in the future. This should ensure that appropriate information is available to inform the Council's ability to manage the allocation of Council pitches to most effectively respond to demand for individual sport and different age groups whilst providing facilities of sufficient quality and accessibility.

Objective 2 – Hierarchy of Pitch Provision

- 5.32. The previous Knowsley Playing Pitch Assessment and Strategy (prepared in 2003) included a recommended hierarchy of provision based upon size, quality and demand. However this has been largely superseded by the restructuring of community available provision as part of the Building Schools for the Future and Primary Future Schooling programmes. As a consequence it is not appropriate to draw upon and / or update an existing hierarchy; rather as an alternative an entirely new hierarchy should be prepared based upon both existing supply and demand, and future potential relating to quality and quantity to assist the formulation of strategic priorities.
- 5.33. In seeking to protect all pitch sites of Borough, Community Area and Neighbourhood significance, the Council should be aiming to prioritise retention and investment in the higher quality and value facilities which provide multi sport opportunities, potential for growth and flexibility to adapt to demand requirements. In this regard, these sites are considered to be the primary contributors to the minimum level of provision required to meet local need. This is equivalent to the level at which the results of the PPM calculations indicate that supply is in balance with demand, both at present and in the future.
- 5.34. The Borough, Community Area and Neighbourhood sites are an integral part of future playing pitch provision for the following reasons:
- to accommodate latent and future demand for pitch sport teams;
 - to enable the development of new clubs and teams;
 - the development/expansion of new pitch sports (such as mini-soccer and RUSH hockey), and;
 - to accommodate backlogs and for rest and recovery periods.
- 5.35. It should be noted that some rationalisation of pitch sites could be permissible in the event that it would enable more efficient use of the site including more focused investment and improvement of pitch quality / facilities in targeted locations. This is noting that there are some sites which also link into broader regeneration priorities (i.e. Pool Hey in Stockbridge Village, Tower Hill in Kirkby) and should be considered in this context.
- 5.36. In addition and notwithstanding this objective, it is acknowledged that informal sites still provide some value, particularly in terms of enabling participation in sport and assisting the rest and recovery of better quality provision by redistributing informal demand. On this basis, it should not

automatically be presumed that the release of all these sites is suitable, given that many also have other greenspace benefits.

- 5.37. The release of any sites should be undertaken in accordance with adopted policies, including quantitative, qualitative and accessibility standard, on the basis of where they are surplus to requirements and are not providing an important local amenity, or where the proposed development will secure the conversion of other land within an acceptable distance to substitute the land provision to an equal or higher quality. These restrictions should be progressed through policies in the Local Plan.

Objective 3 – Improvements to Quality and Accessibility

- 5.38. Consultation undertaken as part of the Playing Pitch Assessment and Strategy has identified that the quality and accessibility of playing pitch provision is one of the key influences upon sports participation and the levels of latent demand within Knowsley. However there has been significant recent investment in playing pitch provision and associated facilities, particularly through the Building Schools for the Future and Primary Future Schooling programmes. As a consequence, there is a greater need to improve the quality and accessibility of existing pitches / fields / facilities rather than to provide additional pitches to increase the overall quantity.
- 5.39. With regard to the above, it is apparent that there are a number of sites within Knowsley which are in need of investment to reach their full potential in terms of quality, value and accessibility. A key component of delivering this objective will therefore be ensuring the pitches and ancillary facilities are of the quality and design to serve their intended purposes based on their value and location, relative to current and future demand.
- 5.40. To achieve this it is recommended that pitch provision within outdoor sport facility sites should be designed and maintained to provide the following:



- 5.41. Provision of good quality and accessible facilities is essential to encourage people to participate. This is noting that such sites influence both quality of play and the potential capacity of a pitch.
- 5.42. The site assessment stages of the PPA&S indicated that the quality of pitches across Knowsley is variable, with a large proportion of existing sites in use being rated as good or better, but a number also considered to be in poor or very poor condition and therefore requiring investment. As a consequence, there is a need to maintain an ongoing programme of improvements across Council pitch sites, including identification of upgrades required to meet the quality standards and aspirations.
- 5.43. In order to drive a programme of improvements, a minimum quality standard should be applied, which equates to a good rating or better. Currently, 64% of existing grass pitches and 100% of synthetic pitches meet this standard within Knowsley. The remaining 36% of grass pitches which fall below the suggested standard will require consideration in terms of priority for future improvement in accordance with a Quality / Value Matrix and the associated Action Plan.
- 5.44. The proportion of pitches and ancillary facilities meeting the quality standard should be monitored regularly (annually or bi-annually) with the results informing a rolling review of future investment priorities.
- 5.45. It is however noted that current funding constraints within the public sector have reduced the resources available to Local Authorities to invest in playing pitch provision, noting the reduction in available grant funding. In this context, potential revenue from other sources is increasingly important, including the need to ensure that new residential developments continue to make a contribution to reflect the increased pressure they place on demand. At present this is secured in Knowsley via the Greenspace Standards and New Development SPD and takes the form of either new provision of space or a financial contribution towards the provision / maintenance of an appropriate amount of playing pitches. This is currently obtained through a Section 106 agreement or Unilateral Undertaking, as a tariff based contribution. However the introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) regulations has reduced the potential to collection contributions in this manner from April 2014. On this basis, there is a need to progress alternative approaches through a revised SPD and / or CIL, as appropriate to ensure financial contributions towards outdoor sports provision continue to be received to support development.
- 5.46. Aside from the above, the Council should also consider reducing the existing 6km accessibility distance to outdoor sports provision applied as a local standard through the Local Plan, to better reflect Community Area footprints and travel patterns. It is recommended that 2 400m appears to be a reasonable distance in this regard.

- 5.47. In addition, there is also a need to consider the extent to which the disposal of surplus and dormant sites, particularly those now redundant following the Building Schools for the Future and Primary Future Schooling programmes, can provide revenue to re-invest in the quality of Knowsley's existing outdoor sports facilities.

Objective 4 – Partnership Working, Consultation and Feedback

- 5.48. There is a need for Knowsley Council to provide support to partners (including local clubs and pitch providers) in the maintenance, improvement and enhancement of their facilities, whilst working in partnership with key stakeholders, pitch providers, local communities, educational providers, private sector, etc, to provide a strategic approach to pitch provision.
- 5.49. Often private pitch providers and local clubs require advice on access on the availability of various funding types such as the distribution of solicited funding and open funding from a wide range of sources such as Sport England, National Governing Bodies, National Lottery, etc, and also welcome available best practice guidance on pitch maintenance.
- 5.50. There are also clubs that may have reached capacity in terms of expansion through success and would benefit from further support and assistance.
- 5.51. With regard to the above, there are clear advantages of Local Authorities working in partnership with local stakeholders and providing expert advice to assist improvements to facilities which lie outside of their ownership. Joint working with NGBs, County Associations and Local Sports Development forums should be used to facilitate this assistance and obtain feedback on emerging priorities for investment, improvement and support required.
- 5.52. To ensure that the strategy is enshrined within the priorities of respective Council departments and associated strategies, the key findings and actions from this study should be initially progressed through the relevant Council portfolio holders for approval. Separate engagement should also be undertaken with partners such as Parish and Town Councils, and Local Clubs with long term leases to ensure they are aware of any shared priorities.
- 5.53. Partnership working will also have a key role in the ongoing process of data collation to inform the regular monitoring and review of progress relative to strategy priorities as identified within the action plan.

Objective 5 – Community Use of School Facilities

- 5.54. Access to outdoor sports facilities is of significant importance, as sites are only highly valued if they are accessible to the local community. An inaccessible facility is of limited value, regardless of the quality of the space.

- 5.55. A frequently raised issue across the UK is access to school sites, with many good quality playing fields sitting unused on days of peak demand. This issue has been addressed to a degree in Knowsley through the requirement for community use agreements as part of planning permissions for the newly built Centres for Learning and Primary Schools delivered via the Building Schools for the Future and Primary Future Schooling programmes. However opportunities remain to explore the possibility of securing community use on existing schools sites, with consultation identifying a number of schools with potential interest which could be considered in the future to supplement demand requirements.
- 5.56. In considering whether school facilities may be suitable for community use, the Council will need to consider whether;
- Investment will be required to address issues such as poor drainage and lower quality maintenance of existing pitches.
 - There are suitable changing facilities.
 - Schools and the Local Education Authority (LEA) are content to hire the pitch or pitches at a comparable rate to existing Council pitches.
 - Schools and the LEA are satisfied that the pitch or pitches have sufficient carrying capacity to account for community use without degrading use for its primary purpose (school use).
- 5.57. Where sites are suitable, the Council should assist schools in arranging formal community use agreements which secure the use of the facility for use outside school hours where there is local community need. These agreements should facilitate the use of these facilities and ensure long-term access, with benefits to the range of facilities available for community use.
- 5.58. The Council should also review the current arrangements with Centres for Learning and Primary Schools to ensure existing agreements are being utilised and community access is advertised appropriately.

Objective 6 – Pricing Structure

- 5.59. The Council has an existing pricing structure which is standardised, with a hierarchy which provides preferential rates for local clubs (including further reductions for those achieving Clubmark standard) amongst concessions for other stakeholders.
- 5.60. Consultation responses suggest that the current pitch rental costs and the existing structure remain affordable and accessible to local clubs, noting that only 7% of responses rated the current fee charges as poor. Nevertheless the pitch rental charges need to be kept under review to ensure they remain suitable and this should therefore be progressed via the Council department responsible for the Leisure portfolio.
- 5.61. Separate consideration should also be given to the suitability of an option of introducing a pricing structure linked to pitch (and overall facility) quality with pitches accurately graded. This could include (where appropriate) fees

increased to reflect increased quality, to thereby allow additional revenue generated to be reinvested in low quality pitch provision. This could assist in redistributing some informal demand, whilst assisting lower quality facilities to be improved to a higher standard and thereby reduce the pressure of demand and intensity of use upon existing high quality facilities by increasing the pool of those sites. However any decisions taken in this regard should prioritise affordability and concessions for local clubs to ensure suitable accessibility for match use is retained.

Objective 7 – Management and Maintenance

- 5.62. Efficient management and maintenance of facilities is as important as the quality, quantity and access to the facilities.
- 5.63. In contrast to the consultation responses relating to the pricing structure, a number of local clubs expressed concern during consultation with regard to the arrangements for pitch bookings. A number considered the existing system to be difficult to use and less than transparent, with suggestions that established clubs are given preferential treatment over start up clubs for new pitches and the use of pitches not being organised effectively.
- 5.64. To address the above, the Council should consider a review of existing procedures to ensure the pitch booking and management processes in place are efficient, fair and accessible to all local residents.

Delivery Options for the Strategy

- 5.65. To inform the final action plan, the previous objectives are a useful baseline position to assess the suitability of a number of delivery options available to Knowsley. This is noting the need to adapt the final action plan to both current and future circumstances in the context of the outcomes of the Playing Pitch Assessment and Strategy analysis.
- 5.66. With regard to the above, it is apparent that whilst there are a number of potential available strategies which can be utilised, not all will be suitable, particularly noting the need to align with broader Council priorities and in view of a general decline in public sector funding.
- 5.67. In the context of the above, the delivery options are considered and assessed on the subsequent pages in terms of their suitability in Knowsley.
- 5.68. The delivery options are followed by a summary of the Quality / Value Matrix (full detail at Appendix N) which is intended to support the identification of a hierarchy of provision which indicates the potential investment priorities at a site specific level.

Table 5.3: Delivery Options for the Strategy

Strategy Options	Appropriate Scenario	Implication for Knowsley
<p>Changing the sports use or dimensions of existing pitches</p>	<p>An existing surplus of provision for one sport / sub group, and deficiency in others at Community Area or Knowsley level.</p>	<p>Re-designation of existing adult football pitches in all Community Areas which are clearly surplus to provision and would help to address identified current and future pitch deficiencies in mini and junior football, or other sports uses where demand arises.</p> <p>The re-designation of existing good quality surplus adult football pitches to junior and mini pitches can address any current and future deficits, or release the pressure on intensity of other sporting uses, to ensure a suitable range of high quality, high carrying capacity pitches.</p> <p>Based on the Greenspaces Audit which identifies where there is need for any other greenspace in the Borough, there is a need to re-consider whether all existing pitches continue to be marked as such or whether it is more appropriate to ensure a proportion of land can flexibly respond to varying and seasonal demand. There may also be the opportunity to de-classify some existing pitch sites and retain as greenspace for a range of informal uses, to create a reserve that could be utilised for future pitches if demand requires.</p> <p>The type of adult football pitch that would be a priority for re-designation to mini or junior provision, before consideration for other sports, would be a good quality pitch, preferably multi-pitch or with the potential to become so, ideally with provision for training i.e. synthetic surfaces, served by at minimum toilets suitable for junior and mini players.</p>

<p>Dual-use facilities and greater use of education pitches</p>	<p>There is a large stock of high quality education facilities not in community use, and commitment from schools to open their facilities for wider use.</p>	<p>Explore and develop closer partnership working between Council departments to maximise the potential role of school facilities to support mini and junior sports and potentially provide additional community accessible facilities for indoor training. This is noting the success of the BSF and Primary Future Schooling programmes in securing community use, and a further 8 primary schools having expressed an interest via consultation. There will however be a potential need for this recommendation to be supported by revenue funding to support any additional maintenance costs and administration relating to pitch bookings.</p> <p>In the interest of consistency, community use agreements to an agreed specification should be required from any future school redevelopment schemes.</p>
<p>Enhancing carrying capacity through improving the quality of pitches and facilities</p>	<p>There is potential to improve a number of sites.</p>	<p>Pitches in use are generally good quality but overplay will reduce capacity. A low proportion of pitches are used beyond ideal capacity already, with the situation likely to worsen in the future.</p> <p>Use the findings of the assessment together with the Quality / Value matrix to prioritise investment in playing pitches and ancillary facilities.</p> <p>The type of site that would be a priority for investment should be an existing good quality multi pitch site, or have the potential to become so (multi-pitch meaning mini, junior and adult pitches for either one sport, or a range of sports, plus ideally at least synthetic training provision), have existing changing provision of reasonable quality and that meet the needs of all users i.e. women and girls, disability participants etc (or facilities that could become</p>

		<p>so with limited investment).</p> <p>Given the findings of the assessment and the reliance upon Council, Parish Council and School facilities there is a need to strengthen and develop partnership working with private providers, local clubs, sports governing bodies (regional and national) and neighbouring authorities. The Merseyside Sports Partnership (MSP) should be used to facilitate this. Addressing any deficiencies recorded should not be relied upon as the sole responsibility of any one agency / organisation.</p> <p>Subject to resources, continue to develop regular consultation with pitch users to establish trend data in relation to satisfaction, ratings of quality and common pitch issues. This could be partially undertaken via the pitch booking forms administered by the Council to users of public football pitches, and through the Leisure and Culture Development Team.</p> <p>Condition surveys on changing facilities should be undertaken at regular intervals to identify any remedial work that may be required, identify any additional disability access requirements and provide an estimated lifespan for the building.</p>
<p>Bringing into play disused and unmarked facilities</p>	<p>There is land available that could be used for playing pitch provision which is currently disused or unmarked and could address some deficiencies</p>	<p>There are a number of disused and unmarked facilities due to their poor quality. In areas where there isn't a significant surplus of provision, consideration is required as to whether it is cost effective to invest in these facilities to ensure suitable standard for organised fixtures.</p> <p>Alternatively some sites could be improved and re-focused as informal provision, particularly in combination</p>

		<p>with other established greenspace uses.</p> <p>Certain sites in areas of deficit, if unsuitable or not required for other greenspace purposes, may provide some alternative benefit through appropriate release to address other development needs.</p> <p>The role of further promotion and marketing of the relevant sports in order to ensure that latent demand in the area has been genuinely accommodated should also be considered.</p>
Management options, including long term leasing of pitches	This approach can result in more effective investment and access to external funding, improvements in quality, etc. The approach is particularly successful when there is also adequate provision to service demand created by the emergence of new clubs / teams.	Long-term leasing could enable clubs to secure funding although it can limit availability of pitches to the wider community. There is evidence through the PPA that the quality of these sites are generally good (i.e. Lord Derby's Playing Fields and Lickers Lane / Windy Arbor Road Recreation Ground), but are not efficiently used outside of temporal peak demand periods.
Develop new facilities on new sites	A lack of provision overall and deficiencies across a number of sports which cannot be fully addressed by implementing the policy options outlined above.	<p>This does not appear to be an appropriate option for Knowsley's current circumstances given the PPA suggests that there is sufficient flexibility in current provision and through delivery of existing commitments to accommodate projected future demand.</p> <p>Nevertheless there is a need to regularly update the supply and demand information to evaluate ongoing action and delivery. This should comprise associated monitoring indicators as part of the Local Plan and other Council documents (i.e. Green Space Strategy, Leisure</p>

		<p>Strategy, etc), together with a full playing pitch assessment undertaken every 5 years or as near as possible to fit in with Knowsley's Local Plan process and Sport England requirements. This ongoing updating and monitoring process should be facilitated through a formal Playing Pitch Strategy Steering Group, comprising representatives from the Council (leisure, education, asset management, planning and grounds maintenance) and involve external stakeholders (i.e. NGBs and Sport England) where possible.</p>
<p>Create opportunities for increased participation</p>	<p>There is a notable lack of junior participation in cricket, hockey and rugby (both codes) and a comparable trend for women and girls' participating in cricket, football and rugby.</p>	<p>The Council needs to consider the options for developing opportunities to engage juniors, women and girls in outdoor sport. This is noting that there are suitable hub facilities located throughout Knowsley and it's Community Areas which provide access to opportunities in a range of sports, but are not being fully capitalised upon at present.</p> <p>With regard to the above, there is a need to work in partnership with clubs to assist club and sport development and promote increased participation. This is noting that there are clubs which have reached capacity in terms of expansion through growth and would benefit from further support and assistance. This practice should be continued and extended to the development of local sports partnership groups.</p>
<p>Rationalisation of existing pitches</p>	<p>A clear surplus of pitches has been identified even taking into account re-marking pitches to address other local deficiencies, and allowing some contingency for resting and rotation.</p>	<p>A significant surplus of pitches has been identified overall, providing a degree of flexibility in land area to enable existing and future deficits in other sporting provision to be addressed. As a consequence the Council should consider disposal / change of use on a site by site basis and reflect the findings of the recent Greenspaces Audit.</p>

		<p>The type of site that could potentially be considered for rationalisation would be one with a single pitch, where it is poor quality, and where there is poor quality or no changing facilities (or limited facilities i.e. no provision for women and girls, or not compliant with DDA). If poor quality pitches can be replaced with better quality provision through either re-designation or opening up access to other existing pitches on school sites. A suitable proportion of capital gained through sale of sites could be re-invested into pitch development and changing room improvement consistent with the needs of the area.</p>
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Table 5.4: Quality / Value Matrix Site Classifications (November 2011)

Site Classification	Sites (Community Area)	Status and Recommended Actions
High Quality, High Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Saints CfL (Kirkby) • Halewood CfL (Halewood) • Halewood Leisure Centre (Halewood) • Huyton Arts and Sports CfL (Huyton) • Kirkby Leisure Centre (Kirkby) • Kirkby Sports College (Kirkby) • Knowsley Park CfL (PWC) • St. Edmund Arrowsmith CfL (PWC) 	<p>Modern hub facilities of significant scale providing multi-sport opportunities of high quality and high value, including appropriate changing facilities, car parking and floodlighting. Community access is secured, but at CfL sites public use is limited to outside of school hours.</p> <p>The sites are a high priority for retention, but medium priority for investment, as the focus should be upon maintaining existing quality standards rather than focused improvements.</p>
High Quality, Medium Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christ the King CfL (Huyton) 	<p>Modern hub facility providing multi-sport facilities of high quality, including appropriate changing facilities, car parking and floodlighting. However the opportunities offered by the site have yet to reach their full potential, as the grass pitches have yet to be completed. Community access is secured, but public use is limited to outside of school hours.</p> <p>The site is a high priority for retention, and a high priority for investment to deliver improvements which enhance its value.</p>
High Quality, Low Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	<p>There are no existing sites which are currently considered to be high quality and low value. As a consequence no specific action for this category is required.</p>

<p>Medium Quality, High Value</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arncliffe Sports Centre (Halewood) • Huyton KGV (Huyton) • Lickers Lane / Windy Arbor Road Recreation Ground (PWC) • Lord Derby's Memorial Fields (Huyton) • Prescott Leisure Centre (PWC) • Warrenhouse Playing Fields (Kirkby) 	<p>Modern hub facilities of significant scale providing multi-sport opportunities of high value, including appropriate changing facilities, car parking and in some cases floodlighting. Community access is secured and the pitches are available to hire, aside from two of the sites (Lickers Lane / Windy Arbor Road & Lord Derby's) which are long term leased to individual clubs. The medium quality of the sites reflects the existing pitch and facility which are generally above average but include issues such as pitch conditions being affected by site specific constraints or intensity of use, or slightly ageing facilities in need of improvement.</p> <p>The sites are a high priority for retention, and a high priority for investment to deliver improvements where it will enhance their quality.</p>
<p>Medium Quality, Medium Value</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frederick Lunt Playing Fields (Halewood) • Hall Lane Park (The Pasture) (PWC) • Hollies Recreation Ground (Halewood) • Huyton Cricket Club (Huyton) • Knowsley Recreation Ground (Huyton) • Mill Lane (Huyton) • Park Brow Primary School (Kirkby) • Parklands Sports Club (PWC) • Valerie Park (PWC) • Whiston Willis (PWC) 	<p>Local facilities of medium scale providing single sport opportunities and are therefore medium value, with either multiple pitches or adequate changing facilities, car parking and in some cases floodlighting. Community access varies, with some sites only available outside of school hours and others dedicated to a single club (i.e. Huyton Cricket Club and Valerie Park).</p> <p>The medium quality of the sites reflects the existing pitch and facility which are generally above average but include issues such as pitch conditions being affected by site specific constraints or intensity of use, or slightly ageing facilities in need of improvement.</p> <p>The sites are a high priority for retention and a high priority for investment where it will deliver improvements to both pitches and associated facilities to enhance their quality and value.</p>

<p>Medium Quality, Low Value</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pentagon Sports (Halewood) • Waterpark Drive (Huyton) 	<p>Local or informal facilities of small scale providing single pitch opportunities of medium quality and low value. Community access varies, with Waterpark Drive heavily used as amenity greenspace, whereas Pentagon Sports is in an isolated position with restricted access and limited benefit to the wider community.</p> <p>The sites are a low priority for retention for sporting purposes, and investment given their limited value and prospects for enhancement. As a consequence it is recommended that the Council evaluate opportunities to improve value through alternative greenspace use or otherwise consider the potential benefits of disposal for other development needs (if appropriate).</p>
<p>Low Quality, High Value</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jubilee Park (Huyton) 	<p>Modern hub facility of significant scale with significant potential to provide multi-sport opportunities of high value, however at the present time the site includes only adequate car parking, with no changing facilities or floodlighting. Community access is secured and unrestricted. However the low quality of the site reflects the existing pitch and facilities which are generally below average include issues with pitch conditions affected by constraints such as poor drainage and unlevel surfaces, together with intensity of informal use. This results in the site being underused as a sporting use relative to its potential.</p> <p>The site is a high priority for retention, and a high priority for investment to deliver significant improvements to both pitches and associated facilities which enhance its quality to maximise its potential value.</p>

<p>Low Quality, Medium Value</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blacklow Brow (Huyton) • Charlottes Pagsy (Kirkby) • Field Lane Park (Kirkby) • Grace Park (Halewood) • Halewood Doorstep Green (Halewood) • Manor Farm Road / Cowper Way (Huyton) • Mill Dam Park (Kirkby) • Millbrook Park (Kirkby) • Moorfield (Kirkby) • Pool Hey (Huyton) • Prescott KGV (PWC) • Roby Recreation Ground (Huyton) • Swanside Playing Fields (Huyton) • Tower Hill Community Centre (Kirkby) • Two Butt Lane (PWC) • Whitefield Cricket Club (Huyton) • Wignall Park (Kirkby) • Woolfall Heath Avenue (Huyton) 	<p>Local facilities of medium scale providing single sport opportunities and are therefore medium value, with either multiple pitches or in some cases changing facilities and / or car parking. Community access varies, with the majority unrestricted and primary used by the public for non-sporting purposes or informal use; there are however two sites (Blacklow Brow and Tower Hill CC) which are only available outside of school hours. The low quality rating of the sites reflect the existing pitch and facilities being generally below average including issues with pitch conditions affected by site specific constraints and degradation through intensity of informal use. The majority of these sites therefore have limited formal use at present, or are underused relative to their potential.</p> <p>The sites are a high priority for investment where it will deliver significant improvements to both pitches and associated facilities which enhance quality to maximise potential value. In this regard, it may be the case that some sites are more suited to a focus upon alternative greenspace uses. Further a small number of the larger sites (Moorfield, Pool Hey and Manor Farm Road / Cowper Way) which are not currently in high value alternative greenspace use and have limited potential to attain significant improvement and therefore may be more suited to consolidation. In this regard, the release of surplus land that exists on all of these sites could be utilised to generate investment in the remaining facilities to maximise their qualitative efficiency.</p>
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<p>Low Quality, Low Value</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alt Centre Youth Club (Huyton) • Alt Park (Huyton) • Nyland Road (Huyton) • West View (Huyton) 	<p>Local or informal facilities of small scale providing single pitch opportunities of low quality and low value. Community access varies, with Alt Park, Nyland Road and West View predominantly used as park or amenity greenspace, whereas Alt Centre Youth Club is a bookable pitch used for informal purposes only due to its poor condition.</p> <p>The sites are a low priority for retention for sporting purposes, and investment given their limited value and prospects for enhancement. As a consequence it is recommended that the Council evaluate opportunities to improve their value to the community through alternative greenspace use or otherwise consider the potential benefits of disposal for other development needs (if appropriate).</p>
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Vision for pitch provision in Knowsley and its Community Areas

- 5.69. In considering the relative quality and value of facilities, consideration should be given to the development of a conceptual hierarchy of provision to guide future investment in the improvement of playing pitches to ensure an efficient and cost effective approach.
- 5.70. A hierarchy needs to reflect the role and value of existing pitches available for community use, and the need to provide facilities which enable progression through different stages of competitive play (i.e. variety of age groups, sports and varying standards of league play).
- 5.71. The establishment of a hierarchy of pitch provision offers the widest flexibility of provision, by;
- guiding development priorities across the Borough;
 - assisting in attracting investment and funding from external sources, and;
 - ensuring that facilities exist to accommodate all levels of sports participation.
- 5.72. Whilst the Council had a previous hierarchy of provision which was identified through the previous Playing Pitch Assessment and Strategy in 2003, this has been superseded by the BSF / PFS programmes which have delivered a significant proportion of new community use facilities which opened between 2009 – 2011. As a consequence the patterns of supply and demand for sporting club use are still adapting to the availability of the community use facilities at Centres for Learning. With this in mind, the low levels of existing use of many of these facilities are not considered reflective of their long term potential to accommodate a significant proportion of demand. It is anticipated that as these facilities become established they will relieve the pressure upon established sites with high intensity usage at present, particularly the hub sites such as Warrenhouse Playing Fields (Kirkby), Huyton KGV (Huyton) and Arncliffe Sports Centre (Halewood).
- 5.73. In view of the above, it was not considered appropriate as part of the demand analysis to define an existing hierarchy of provision based upon existing use levels as this would not accurately reflect both value and quality, given the current transition period relative to supply and demand being experienced in Knowsley and its constituent Community Areas.
- 5.74. As an alternative it was considered more appropriate to define a hierarchy based upon existing and future role of provision, relative to both current and potential quality and value of facilities. In this regard, the strategy intends to deliver the proposed vision for playing pitch provision in Knowsley which conforms to a suggested hierarchy of sites as follows:

- Borough Sites; Strategically significant sites accommodating the heaviest community usage and usually multiple pitches, located in areas easily accessible by car or public transport, and professionally managed, these sites can be accessed beyond their local Community Area. The sites should aim to provide adequate changing, toilet, spectator and car parking facilities, together with floodlights (if practicable), to accommodate clubs in higher leagues and competitions. Sites in Knowsley which meet this criteria (or have potential to) include;
 - All Saints Centre for Learning, Kirkby
 - Arncliffe Sports Centre, Halewood
 - Christ the King Centre for Learning, Huyton
 - Halewood Centre for Learning, Halewood
 - Halewood Leisure Centre, Halewood
 - Huyton Arts and Sports Centre for Learning, Huyton
 - Huyton KGV, Huyton
 - Jubilee Park, Huyton
 - Kirkby Sports College, Kirkby
 - Knowsley Park Centre for Learning, Prescott
 - Lickers Lane / Windy Arbor Road Recreation Ground, Whiston
 - Lord Derby's Playing Fields, Huyton
 - Prescott Leisure Centre, Prescott
 - St. Edmund Arrowsmith Centre for Learning, Whiston
 - Valerie Park, Prescott
 - Warrenhouse Playing Fields, Kirkby
- Community Area Sites; Generally good quality pitch facilities (usually multiple pitches / sports) available for community use, served by adequate changing, toilet and car parking facilities. These sites have smaller catchments and tend to attract users from the immediate Community Area only. Although often located on publicly available open space, these sites primarily have a sporting function. Sites that fall into this category are where there are served by adequate facilities, and sites in Knowsley which meet this criteria (or have potential to) include;
 - Hollies Recreation Ground, Halewood
 - Huyton Cricket Club, Huyton
 - Kirkby Leisure Centre, Kirkby
 - Knowsley Recreation Ground, Knowsley Village
 - Park Brow Primary School, Kirkby
 - Parklands Sports Club, Cronton
 - Pool Hey, Huyton
 - Prescott KGV, Prescott
 - Roby Recreation Ground, Huyton
 - Roughwood Primary School, Kirkby
 - Two Butt Lane, Whiston
 - Whiston Willis, Whiston
 - Whitefield Cricket Club, Court Hey Park, Huyton
- Neighbourhood Pitch Sites; Pitches which have suitable facilities to serve lower league play, provide venues for teams from the immediate community and accommodate informal use. Typically these pitches are

on publically accessible open space, are often average quality and are in the main not served by changing or toilet facilities. Sites that fall into this category in Knowsley and which meet this criteria (or have potential to) include;

- Alt Park, Huyton
 - Blacklow Brow , Huyton
 - Charlottes Pagsy, Kirkby
 - Copthorne Walk, Kirkby
 - Cottage Fields, Kirkby
 - Field Lane Park, Kirkby
 - Frederick Lunt Playing Fields, Halewood
 - Grace Park / Greengates, Halewood
 - Hall Lane Park (The Pasture), Cronton
 - Mill Lane, Knowsley Village
 - Pentagon Sports Club, Halewood
 - Swanside Playing Fields, Huyton
 - Tower Hill Resource Centre, Kirkby
 - West View, Huyton
 - Wignall Park, Kirkby
- Informal Pitch Sites; Pitches which are currently used for informal sports provision or as overspill training venues. These sites are typically on publically accessible open space and have limited prospects for potential upgrade for club use and no ancillary facilities. Sites which fall into this category in Knowsley include;
 - Halewood Doorstep Green, Halewood
 - Manor Farm Road / Cowper Way, Huyton
 - Moorfield, Kirkby
 - Mill Dam Park, Kirkby
 - Millbrook Park, Kirkby
 - Nyland Road, Huyton
 - Waterpark Drive, Huyton
 - Woolfall Heath Avenue, Huyton

5.75. With regard to the above, it is noted that playing pitch provision is often under threat from non-sporting development. It is therefore considered appropriate to ensure that any sites suitable for release that will not harm the overarching objectives are identified. In this regard, although the general theme of the strategy is one of fewer sites and higher quality, this does not necessarily result in loss of greenspace. Any pitch which is identified as surplus to sporting need must be assessed within the wider context of the Local Plan, Greenspace Audit and Green Space Strategy in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework. If located in a park or neighbourhood open space, a surplus pitch could be developed in a way to make the remainder of the open space more attractive for other uses. Examples of informal pitch sites with alternative greenspace value are those located in parks and gardens such as Halewood Doorstep Green, Mill Dam Park and Millbrook Park. Other informal pitch sites which do not have alternative greenspace value, could be considered suitable for release to

meet other development needs, provided that there is not a current or projected future deficit in the associated Community Area.

- 5.76. A number of sites are excluded from the suggested hierarchy of provision as they are either school provision with no secured community use or alternatively they are considered to be surplus to requirements for outdoor sports provision following consideration of their ability to address any existing / future deficits in terms of supply / demand.
- 5.77. With regard to the above, the list of the playing fields and other sites previously used for outdoor sports provision but now surplus to Knowsley and Community Area requirements for these purposes, are considered to be the following;
- Former All Saints School, Cherryfield Drive, Kirkby
(playing fields to be replaced as per extant planning permission)
 - Former Cherryfield Primary School, Rockford Avenue, Kirkby
 - Former Knowsley Northern Primary Support Centre, Bramcote Walk, Kirkby
 - Former Sacred Heart Primary School, Westhead Avenue, Kirkby
(playing fields)
 - Former Simonswood Primary School, Minstead Avenue, Kirkby
 - Former Bowring Comprehensive School, Western Avenue, Huyton
 - Former Brookside Primary School, Waterpark Drive, Huyton
 - Former Edenhurst Avenue Playing Fields, Huyton
 - Former Huyton Leisure Centre, Roby Road, Huyton
 - Former Larch Road Playing Fields, Larch Road, Huyton
 - Former Nine Trees Primary School, Huyton
 - Former BICC Social Club, Scotchbarn Lane, Prescot
 - Former Scotchbarn Leisure Centre, Scotchbarn Lane, Prescot
 - Former St. Edmund Arrowsmith School, Scotchbarn Lane, Prescot
(playing fields)
 - Former Knowsley Southern Primary Support Centre, Arncliffe Road, Halewood
 - Former Mackets Resource Centre, Arncliffe Road, Halewood
(playing fields)
- 5.78. The identified surplus sites were discounted on the basis of a number of the following being relevant to each;
- an absence of existing community use,
 - exclusion from initial PPM calculations,
 - an absence of existing and future deficits of provision, or alternatively the presence of existing commitments for new pitches currently being delivered in their Community Area, and / or expressions of interest from local schools to expand use of their facilities to the local community to make good any deficiency;
 - surplus nature of former school sites following restructuring of school provision through the BSF / PFS programmes;
 - surplus nature of former leisure centre sites following restructuring of leisure provision through the Leisure Facilities Strategy, and;

- long term dormancy of sites which are extremely unlikely to be secured for community use in an area of current and future surplus.
- 5.79. In addition to the above, the Playing Pitch Assessment and Strategy has also identified a small number of sites as being underused or having unused provision with no realistic prospect of being required to meet future demand. In this regard, the following sites are considered to be potentially suitable for remodelling and consolidation of land area, to ensure deliver of more efficient investment in quality and contribute to wider regeneration priorities;
- Pool Hey, Huyton
 - Moorfield, Kirkby
- 5.80. For the avoidance of doubt, it should be noted that the identification of surplus or underused / unused provision within this study should not be taken to imply that they will be allocated for development or that the Council will necessarily consider planning applications favourably. Whilst the Playing Pitch Assessment and Strategy will inform the Local Plan process which will develop strategic land use priorities, any potential release of individual sites for alternative use will be subject to consideration through the planning application process.

Strategic Recommendations for Development of Sports

- 5.81. The development of sports in Knowsley will primarily be taken forward by the Council's Leisure Services, which therefore require a strategic focus which responds to the strategic objectives and the outcomes of the Playing Pitch Assessment and Strategy.
- 5.82. In accordance with the above, the strategic recommendations for the development of sports in Knowsley are as follows;
- Increase the opportunities for participation in all sports through an enhanced quality of facilities, accessible to all ages and abilities.
 - Develop sports partnership stakeholder groups to ensure regular communication with and feedback from local clubs.
 - Produce an individual sports development plans for Knowsley to facilitate development of the sport at all levels and for all ages.
 - Establish a Knowsley football league to develop local participation based on a Borough-wide footprint covering all four Community Areas (Kirkby, Huyton, Prescot, Whiston & Cronton, and Halewood) with match day fixtures adapted to avoid periods of current and forecasted peak demand.
 - Prioritise community available school provision for the development of junior and mini provision.
 - Pursue opportunities to secure closer links with Knowsley's Football Academies (i.e. Liverpool FC Academy in Kirkby and Everton FC Finch Farm in Halewood) to enhance youth development opportunities and explore the possibility of more beneficial community use arrangements.

- Work pro-actively with established clubs in Knowsley and neighbouring districts to engage in the development of junior cricket, rugby and hockey, including development of links between established clubs in different sports to offer diversification of opportunities for young people.
- Offer support where possible to existing clubs to assist in the development of their provision and facilities, particularly with regard to the identification of funding sources and associated applications.
- Work with clubs and schools to support an increase in participation in all sports and encourage development of clubs to Charter status.
- Ensure that the Dallas Cup football activity (training and competitions) aligns with the overall strategic development of football in Knowsley and provides a pathway to performance for local young people.
- Monitor existing long lease and management arrangements at Lickers Lane / Windy Arbor Road Recreation Ground and Lord Derby's Memorial Fields to ensure effective club management of facilities and suitable capacity for growth of Whiston Juniors and Knowsley South respectively.
- Develop cricket use of hub facilities, particularly in terms of recently established provision available for community uses at the Centres for Learning.
- Strengthen links between schools and existing clubs for all sports, through inter school competitions, summer camps and shared coaching arrangements (where practicable).
- Improve participation rates for cricket, hockey and rugby (both codes) by promoting the individual sports locally through schools, utilising recognised figures where appropriate and engage with sub-regional junior leagues to assess potential for expansion in Knowsley and its individual Community Areas.
- Maximise long term retention of anticipated short term increases in sports participation resulting from the London Olympics and the promotional opportunities associated by the presence of the Olympic torch in Knowsley by promoting the varied sports opportunities available with the Borough.
- Increase the number of referees, officials, umpires and coaches in all sports through partnership working (such as the Merseyside Sports Partnership), together with closer links with the NGB's (including regional representatives and development officers, as appropriate) for all sports.
- Support programmes which develop the volunteering sector through recruitment, assistance and training.

5.83. The recommendations above inform the subsequent action plan in Section 6, together with the strategic objectives, core principles, delivery options and vision.

Implementation of the Strategy

- 5.84. In view of the Council's ongoing Change and Transformation programme necessary flexibility is provided within the Action Plan in terms of Knowsley's departmental responsibility for the implementation of specific elements of the strategy. In this regard, it is anticipated that monitoring and review responsibilities will remain within the remit of the Council's Planning section in so far as it informs the Local Plan, with other Council departments responsible for Leisure, Neighbourhood, Regeneration, Asset Management and Education services having control over the implementation of thematic elements. The priorities should be progressed in more detail through the preparation of the following departmental documents (as appropriate);
- Local Plan and an updated Greenspace Standards and New Development Supplementary Planning Document to progress revised standards relating to outdoor sports provision (together with other greenspace typologies)
 - Infrastructure Delivery Plan setting out requirements for new development to support qualitative and accessibility standards.
 - Updated Green Space Strategy to identify maintenance and improvement priorities relative to available resources thereby ensuring qualitative and accessibility standards are met.
 - Updated Leisure Strategy outlining management priorities for sports development and ensuring the most efficient provision to meet local needs.
- 5.85. To assist the above process, there is also a need for the strategy to incorporate actions which will enhance the capability and capacity of Local Authority officers, members and other partners in Knowsley to deliver the key priorities. This can be achieved through presentation of findings of the study to the Knowsley Steering Group and an associated workshop session to assist understanding of the strategy, develop the programming of future actions within departmental plans and raise the profile of the document as a useful evidence base and decision making tool, with all relevant data sets made available to assist the monitoring and review process.
- 5.86. The Action Plan is intended to be aspirational and positive in providing qualitative improvements which respond to the issues identified through the site assessments, whilst being reflective of the differing value of the sites and their potential. Nevertheless it is apparent that due to the ongoing decline in the value of public sector expenditure available, the Council cannot be expected to solely fund delivery through future capital and revenue budgets. As a consequence, the Action Plan is not intended to be used as a performance measure or indicator for individual departments; rather it is intended to provide recommendations as opposed to obligations and commitments. In this regard, the level of priorities reflect a hierarchy for investment choices, which will also assist grant funding bids to Sport England / NGBs by identifying areas where increases in revenue or gap funding from external sources is necessary to deliver new or improved facilities.

Section 6:

Action Plan

Implementing the Playing Pitch Strategy: An Action Plan for Knowsley

Action	Lead Body	Partner Agencies	Resources	Initial Timescale	Duration and Review Period
Strategic – General					
Monitor and continually reassess the adequacy of playing pitch provision, with a new Playing Pitch Assessment and Strategy prepared at least every five years. The monitoring process should be facilitated through a formal Playing Pitch Strategy Steering Group, comprising representatives from the Council (leisure, education, asset management, planning and grounds maintenance) and involve external stakeholders (i.e. NGBs and Sport England).	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sport England • Local Clubs • Parish Councils, • Other Pitch Providers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KMBC 	1 – 5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing process • Full review of the adequacy of playing provision relative to supply and demand every five years.
Review and update baseline data for teams and pitches at least every two years to ensure that; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council has up to date information about local clubs and their pitch requirements, together with quantitative and qualitative pitch information. • Local residents have access to information about local sports clubs and participation opportunities. • The Council can monitor supply and demand trends, particularly growth in focus sports. 	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Clubs • Local Leagues • Local Sports Councils • Merseyside Sports Partnership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KMBC 	1 – 2 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing process • Trend analysis and data updates at least every two years, with full review at least every five years.
Evaluate the suitability of existing planning policy standards for outdoor sports provision to address the future local needs, and progress any justifiable amendments through the ongoing review of the Local Plan and the associated Greenspace Standards and New Development SPD.	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sport England • Local Clubs • Local Leagues • Merseyside Sports Partnership • Local Residents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KMBC 	1 – 2 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standards reviewed and updated as part of ongoing Local Plan process. • Review ongoing effectiveness of standards through bi-annual audits.
Support the retention of all existing Borough, Community Area and Neighbourhood pitch sites for outdoor sports use in the interest of maintaining good quality and accessible facilities available to all residents of Knowsley.	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Education Authority • Parish Councils • Private Pitch Providers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KMBC • Developer Contributions • External Funding 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing process • Trend analysis from data updates at least every two years, with full review at least every five years.
Invest in new pitch provision at existing playing fields in public use which have physical potential for additional pitches.	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Education Authority • Parish Councils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KMBC • Developer Contributions 	1 – 3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing process • Trend analysis from data updates at least every two years, with full review at least every five years.
Continue to invest in the provision, improvement and management of grass and synthetic turf pitches and associated accommodation / facilities (both those owned by the Council and through supporting other providers).	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Clubs • Parish Councils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KMBC • Development Contributions • External Funding 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing process • Trend analysis and data updates at least every two years, with full review at least every five years.
Maximise the playing potential of existing provision by securing investment for pitch improvements and additional segregated changing facilities through the Greenspace Standards and New Development SPD and / or the Community Infrastructure Levy (as appropriate), together with a programme of investment funded from disposal of surplus school / dormant sites in each Community Area.	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Education Authority • Private Pitch Operators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KMBC • Development Contributions 	1 – 5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing process • Annual audit, with effectiveness of investment reviewed at least every five years.

Action	Lead Body	Partner Agencies	Resources	Initial Timescale	Duration and Review Period
Identification of pitch rotation capacity at a site specific level, with additional pitches of suitable quality introduced to the stock where overplay and/or fixture congestion may be problematic.	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Education Authority Local Clubs Local Leagues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC Development Contributions External Funding 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing process Trend analysis from data updates at least every two years, with full review at least every five years.
In areas of existing identified deficiency of provision, the Council should firstly seek to work in partnership with the Local Education Authority and individual schools to secure community access to appropriate facilities.	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Education Authority 	N/A	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing process Trend analysis from data updates at least every two years, with full review at least every five years.
Offer favourable consideration to private sports clubs wishing to relocate their pitches to a new site or available provision at an existing site, provided that all proceeds are invested in the club and sports development activities, and no deficiency of provision would result in the local area.	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Clubs 	N/A	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing process Trend analysis from data updates at least every two years, with full review at least every five years.
Provide funding and grounds maintenance advice to independent clubs requiring assistance.	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Clubs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing process Annual audit, with effectiveness of investment reviewed at least every five years.
Maintain a structured programme of consultation with key stakeholders and user groups to assess sports participation levels, identify barriers to participation and inform future investment priorities for new or improved facilities relative to local needs.	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Clubs Local Leagues Local Residents Cultural Associations Parish Councils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing process Surveys at least bi-annually, with effectiveness of engagement reviewed at least every five years.
Review pitch rental costs and provide efficient pitch booking systems which are accessible to local residents to ensure a transparent and consistent calculation method, ensuring that pitch use remains affordable and accessible to local clubs and local residents.	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Clubs Local Residents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC 	1 – 2 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single intervention. Effectiveness considered in the context of trend analysis from data updates at least every two years, with full review at least every five years.
Consideration of the suitability of introducing a pricing structure linked to pitch (and overall facility) quality with pitches accurately graded and where appropriate fees increased to reflect increased quality, to allow increased revenues to be reinvested in pitch provision and maintenance.	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Clubs Local Residents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC 	1 – 2 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single intervention. Effectiveness considered in the context of trend analysis from data updates at least every two years, with full review at least every five years.
Maximise availability of pitch provision by reviewing the programming and timetabling of the use of sites to ensure the most efficient use of both pitches and changing facilities, together with introducing a consistent match cancellation policy and up to date pitch availability information available to the public.	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Clubs Local Leagues Local Sports Councils Merseyside Sports Partnership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC External Funding 	1 – 3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single intervention. Effectiveness considered in the context of trend analysis from data updates at least every two years, with full review at least every five years.

Action	Lead Body	Partner Agencies	Resources	Initial Timescale	Duration and Review Period
Produce individual sports development plans for Knowsley to facilitate development of the sport at all levels and for all ages.	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Clubs Local Leagues Local Sports Councils Merseyside Sports Partnership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single intervention. Effectiveness considered in the context of trend analysis from data updates at least every two years, with full review at least every five years.
Support all local clubs to achieve at least Clubmark accreditation at a Knowsley level and assist each club in working towards national accreditation, including strengthening the links between schools and local sports clubs and, in so doing, increasing the number of children and young people who become members of high quality clubs.	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Clubs Local Education Authority Merseyside Sports Partnership National Governing Bodies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC External Funding Local Clubs 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing process Annual audit, with effectiveness monitored through trend analysis at least every two years and a full review at least every five years.
Identify and support club and school partnership links and pitch sharing initiatives for training which promote the efficient use of facilities, increase carrying capacity and enhance opportunities for competitive play.	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Clubs Local Education Authority Merseyside Sports Partnership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing process Trend analysis from data updates at least every two years, with full review at least every five years.
Ensure that the needs of outdoor sports participants and local clubs are considered in the programming of public use of indoor facilities and artificial turf pitches at Centres for Learning and Leisure Centres, including the requirement for training facilities.	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Clubs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing process Trend analysis from data updates at least every two years, with full review at least every five years.
Partnership working to increase the number of referees, officials, umpires and coaches in all sports through local partnership working and closer links to National Governing Bodies.	National Governing Bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowsley MBC Merseyside Sports Partnership 	N/A	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing process Annual or bi-annual audit and review through analysis of trends reported by NGB.
Support programmes which develop the volunteering sector through recruitment, assistance and training.	National Governing Bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowsley MBC Merseyside Sports Partnership Local Clubs Local Leagues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> External funding 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing process Annual or bi-annual audit and review through analysis of trends reported by NGB.
Presentation of findings of the study to the Knowsley Steering Group and other stakeholders to assist officer and member understanding of the strategy, assist programming of future actions within departmental plans and raise the profile of the document as a useful evidence base and decision making tool, with a workshop session specifically aimed at building stakeholder capability and capacity. All relevant data sets should be made available to assist the monitoring and review process.	Knowsley MBC	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC 	Upon Completion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuation of process of engagement through meetings. Retain steering group to oversee review process Creation of a point of contact for any future enquiries or clarification. Receipt of feedback on the process to assess how the methodology can be refined to assist the preparation of future studies.
Circulate electronic copies of the document to Sport England and National Governing Bodies for their records.	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sport England NGBs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC 	Upon Completion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuation of process of engagement.

Action	Lead Body	Partner Agencies	Resources	Initial Timescale	Duration and Review Period
Cricket					
Accommodate new teams and existing clubs experiencing growth, by identifying available provision at Centres for Learning for use as a strategic reserve where suitable venues are otherwise not available and ground share with other clubs is not possible.	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Education Authority Local Clubs Local Leagues 	N/A	1 – 5 Years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing process. Effectiveness considered in the context of trend analysis from data updates at least every two years, with full review at least every five years.
Prevent the loss of existing cricket facilities to development within all Knowsley's Community Areas unless the pitches and ancillary facilities will be replaced, on a one-for-one basis, at another site within the catchment area.	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Education Authority Local Clubs 	N/A	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing process Trend analysis from data updates at least every two years, with full review at least every five years.
Prioritise investment and / or support initiatives to improve the facilities provided at Whitefield Cricket Club, Huyton Cricket Club and Parklands Sport Club, whilst maintaining the remaining facilities to a good standard.	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Clubs Private Pitch Operators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developer Contributions External Funding 	1 – 5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing process Effectiveness considered in the context of trend analysis from data updates at least every two years, with full review at least every five years.
Partnership working with Cricket Development Groups and Sports Partnerships to monitor the capacity of private club provision and support initiatives to increase participation.	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cricket Development Groups Merseyside Sports Partnership Local Clubs Local Leagues 	N/A	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing process Trend analysis and data updates at least every two years, with effectiveness of investment reviewed at least every five years.
Football					
Prioritise investment and improvements in accordance with the hierarchy of football pitch sites and quality / value matrix which reflects the role and value of existing pitches available for community use and explore the availability of external funding support (i.e. Football Foundation, etc).	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Clubs Local Leagues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC Developer Contributions External Funding 	1 – 5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing process Trend analysis and data updates at least every two years, with effectiveness of investment reviewed at least every five years.
Increase the available number of junior and mini football pitches with secured community use and segregated changing facilities, with particular emphasis upon addressing potential future deficits in Kirkby and Halewood, with consideration given to the flexibility of re-using adult football pitches in surplus to respond to the implications of the FA Youth Development Review.	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Education Authority Parish Councils Local Clubs Local Leagues Private Pitch Operators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC External Funding Local Clubs 	1 – 5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intervention to respond to demand. Effectiveness considered in the context of trend analysis from data updates at least every two years, with full review at least every five years.
Rationalise the number of adult football pitches available to allow re-use which better addresses the current and projected demand for all sports, excluding the sites identified as a priority for investment in accordance with the identified hierarchy of pitch sites which reflects the role and value of existing pitches available for community use.	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Education Authority Parish Councils Local Clubs Private Pitch Operators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC External Funding Local Clubs 	1 – 5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intervention to respond to demand. Effectiveness considered in the context of trend analysis from data updates at least every two years, with full review at least every five years.

Action	Lead Body	Partner Agencies	Resources	Initial Timescale	Duration and Review Period
Assist the rest and recovery of pitches at key football sites within Knowsley in accordance the hierarchy of provision by identifying site specific strategic reserves for individual age groups where possible.	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Clubs Local Leagues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing process. Effectiveness considered in the context of trend analysis from data updates at least every two years, with full review at least every five years.
Assess the potential opportunities to increase capacity and effectiveness of existing synthetic pitch facilities for small sided / 5-a-side football and training use by subdividing pitch areas for separate bookings.	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Clubs Local Leagues England Hockey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC Developer Contributions External Funding 	1 – 5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single intervention to respond to demand. Effectiveness considered in the context of trend analysis from data updates at least every two years, with full review at least every five years.
Monitor the effectiveness of long lease and management arrangements at Lickers Lane / Windy Arbor Road Recreation Ground and Lord Derby's Memorial Fields.	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Clubs Local Leagues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC Local Clubs 	1 – 5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single intervention to establish best practice. Effectiveness considered in the context of trend analysis from data updates at least every two years, with full review at least every five years.
Establish a Knowsley based football league and / or cup competition, whilst building upon opportunities offered by affiliation to the established Dallas Cup competition.	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Clubs Liverpool County FA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC External Funding Local Clubs 	1 – 5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single intervention. Effectiveness considered in the context of trend analysis from data updates at least every two years, with full review at least every five years.
Partnership working with local clubs and leagues to create improved participation rates and player pathways including links with Knowsley's Football Academies (i.e. Liverpool FC Academy in Kirkby, Everton FC Finch Farm in Halewood) and Prescot Cables FC to enhance youth development opportunities.	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Clubs Local Leagues Liverpool County FA Everton FC Liverpool FC Prescot Cables FC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC External Funding 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing process Trend analysis and data updates at least every two years, with effectiveness reviewed at least every five years.
Hockey					
Prevent the loss of existing hockey facilities to development within all Knowsley's Community Areas unless the pitches and ancillary facilities will be replaced, on a one-for-one basis, at another site within the catchment area.	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Education Authority Local Clubs 	N/A	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing process Trend analysis and data updates at least every two years, with effectiveness reviewed at least every five years.
Accommodate new teams and existing clubs experiencing growth, by identifying available provision at Centres for Learning for use as a strategic reserve where suitable venues are otherwise not available and ground share with other clubs is not possible.	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Education Authority Local Clubs Local Leagues 	N/A	1 – 5 Years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing process. Effectiveness considered in the context of trend analysis from data updates at least every two years, with full review at least every five years.

Action	Lead Body	Partner Agencies	Resources	Initial Timescale	Duration and Review Period
Partnership working with local clubs, leagues and schools to create improved participation rates and player pathways including improved links with Prescott Hockey Club and West Derby Hockey Club to enhance junior opportunities in the locality.	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Clubs Local Leagues Rugby Football League Prescot Hockey Club West Derby Hockey Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC External Funding 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing process Trend analysis and data updates at least every two years, with effectiveness reviewed at least every five years.
Assess the potential opportunities to address longer term need for additional synthetic pitch facilities in Huyton and Halewood which may arise if increased demand cannot be satisfied by the use of existing 3G surfaced pitches for match use in the future.	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Clubs Local Leagues England Hockey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC Developer Contributions External Funding 	5 Years +	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intervention to respond to future demand. Potential need to be reviewed again as part of subsequent PPA.
Rugby League					
Prevent the loss of existing rugby league pitches to development within Knowsley's Community Areas unless the pitches and ancillary facilities will be replaced, on a one-for-one basis, at another site within the catchment area.	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Education Authority Local Clubs 	N/A	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing process Trend analysis and data updates at least every two years, with effectiveness reviewed at least every five years.
Increase the available number of rugby league pitches with secured community use, with consideration given to the flexibility of re-using some adult football pitches where surpluses have been identified.	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Education Authority Parish Councils Local Clubs Private Pitch Operators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC External Funding Local Clubs 	1 – 5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intervention to respond to demand. Effectiveness considered in the context of trend analysis from data updates at least every two years, with full review at least every five years.
Partnership working with local clubs, leagues and schools to create improved participation rates and player pathways including improved links with academies associated to St. Helens RLFC and Widnes RLFC, together with other local clubs, to enhance youth development and junior participation opportunities in the locality.	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Clubs Local Leagues Rugby Football League St. Helens RLFC Widnes RLFC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC External Funding 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing process Trend analysis and data updates at least every two years, with effectiveness reviewed at least every five years.
Rugby Union					
Increase the available number of rugby union pitches with secured community use, with consideration given to the flexibility of re-using some adult football pitches where surpluses have been identified.	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Education Authority Parish Councils Local Clubs Private Pitch Operators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC External Funding Local Clubs 	1 – 5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intervention to respond to demand. Effectiveness considered in the context of trend analysis from data updates at least every two years, with full review at least every five years.
Partnership working with local clubs, leagues and schools to create improved participation rates and player pathways including improved links with Liverpool St. Helens RUFC, Sefton RUFC, West Park RUFC and Widnes RUFC to enhance youth development and junior participation opportunities in the locality.	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Clubs Local Leagues Rugby Football Union 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC External Funding 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing process Trend analysis and data updates at least every two years, with effectiveness reviewed at least every five years.

Implementing the Playing Pitch Strategy: An Action Plan for Knowsley – Community Area and Site Specific Priorities for Implementation

Site	Recommended Actions	Responsible Body	Resources	Priority Level	Timescale
<i>Kirkby Community Area</i>					
All Saints Centre for Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of remaining playing pitches as part of the Building Schools for the Future programme. • Standard maintenance programme for all pitches and changing facilities to retain good quality pitch provision to reflect status as a Borough site suitable for sub-regional league play, with re-seeding and rolling during off season as appropriate. • Maintain a strategic reserve upon completion of all remaining pitches on a rotational basis to ensure a period of rest and recovery for each pitch. • Programme temporal pitch use during out of school hours to maximise availability for training and match use. • Model playing pitch layout to reflect demand requirements relative to sport and age groups to maximise efficiency of provision. • Mark training grids in off pitch areas to reduce the demand for on-pitch training. 	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KMBC (including revenue from pitch hire) • Developer Contributions 	Medium	1 – 5 years
Charlottes Pagsy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest in upgrades to the quality and efficiency of the pitch to ensure it is suitable for local league play as part of the compensatory provision associated to the Kirkby town centre redevelopment. • Standard maintenance programme to work toward good quality pitch provision to reflect potential status as a Neighbourhood site suitable for local league play, with re-seeding and rolling during off season as appropriate. • Model playing pitch layout to reflect demand requirements relative to sport and age groups to maximise efficiency of provision. • Mark training grids in off pitch areas to reduce the demand for on-pitch training. • Ensure integration with surrounding greenspace provision and usage - changing facilities are not appropriate in setting. 	Knowsley MBC & Spenhill Regeneration Limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KMBC • Developer Contributions • External Funding 	Medium	1 – 5 years
Copthorne Walk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of playing pitch facilities available for community use as part of Kirkby town centre redevelopment. • Model playing pitch layout to reflect demand requirements relative to sport and age groups to maximise efficiency of provision. • Ensure integration with surrounding greenspace provision and usage - changing facilities are not appropriate in setting. 	Knowsley MBC & Spenhill Regeneration Limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developer Contributions • External Funding 	Medium	1 – 5 years
Cottage Fields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of four new junior playing pitches. 	UK Sport Park PLC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private Investment 	High	1 – 5 years
Field Lane Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest in upgrades to the quality and efficiency of the pitch to ensure it is suitable for local league play with standard maintenance programme to work toward good quality pitch provision to reflect potential status as a Neighbourhood site, with weed removal, re-seeding and rolling during off season as appropriate. • Manage outdoor sports use as informal provision only to integrate with the primary function of the site as park and garden – changing facilities not appropriate in setting. 	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KMBC • Developer Contributions • External Funding 	Medium	1 – 5 years

Site	Recommended Actions	Responsible Body	Resources	Priority Level	Timescale
Kirkby Leisure Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain quality of the surface and floodlighting to maximise the carrying capacity and efficiency of the facility for match use, training, small sided / 5-a-side and informal use. Programme temporal pitch use during out of school hours to maximise availability for training and match use. Model playing pitch layout to reflect demand requirements including consideration of increasing shared usage by sub-dividing or additional marking of smaller pitch areas for separate bookings to increase revenue. 	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC Developer Contributions External Funding 	Medium	1 – 5 years
Kirkby Sports College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standard maintenance programme for all pitches and changing facilities to retain good quality pitch provision to reflect status as a Borough site suitable for regional league play, with re-seeding and rolling during the off season. Maintain a strategic reserve on a rotational basis to ensure a period of rest and recovery for each pitch. Programme temporal pitch use during out of school hours to maximise availability for training and match use. Model playing pitch layout to reflect demand requirements relative to sport and age groups to maximise efficiency of provision. Mark training grids in off pitch areas to reduce the demand for on-pitch training. Consideration of increasing shared usage of the synthetic pitch by sub-dividing or additional marking of smaller pitch areas for separate bookings to increase revenue. 	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC (including revenue from pitch hire) Developer Contributions 	Medium	1 – 5 years
Mill Dam Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drainage works to mitigate existing site issues. Limited maintenance programme for the pitch, with weed removal, rolling and re-seeding during off season as appropriate to ensure suitability for training and informal use as required. Manage outdoor sports use as informal provision only to integrate with the primary function of the site as park and garden with biodiversity function and as a strategic green link within Kirkby. Changing facilities are not appropriate in setting. 	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC (including revenue from pitch hire) Developer Contributions External Funding 	Medium	1 – 5 years
Millbrook Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited maintenance programme for the pitch, with rolling and re-seeding during off season as appropriate to ensure suitability for training and informal use as required. Manage outdoor sports use as informal provision only to integrate with the primary function of the site as park and garden with biodiversity function and as a strategic green link within Kirkby. Changing facilities are not appropriate in setting. 	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC Developer Contributions External Funding 	Low	Ongoing
Moorfield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited maintenance programme for the pitch, with rolling and re-seeding during off season as appropriate to ensure suitability for training and informal use as required. Manage outdoor sports use to focus upon informal use to integrate with the primary function of the site as amenity greenspace. Consider the potential to consolidate the overall dimensions of the field as part of the wider regeneration opportunities within Tower Hill. 	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC Developer Contributions External Funding 	Low	1 – 5 years

Site	Recommended Actions	Responsible Body	Resources	Priority Level	Timescale
Park Brow Primary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standard maintenance programme for all pitches to retain good quality pitch provision to reflect status as a Community Area site, with re-seeding and rolling during off season as appropriate. Explore the possibility of securing community use of existing changing facilities within the school to permit higher levels of league play. Programme temporal pitch use during out of school hours to maximise availability for training and match use. Model playing pitch layout to reflect demand requirements relative to sport and age groups to maximise efficiency of provision. Mark training grids in off pitch areas to reduce the demand for on-pitch training. 	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC (including revenue from pitch hire) Developer Contributions 	Medium	1 – 5 years
Northwood Primary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivery of playing pitch facilities available for community use as part of Primary Future Schooling programme. 	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC 	High	1 – 5 years
Tower Hill Resource Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invest in upgrades to the quality of the synthetic surface and floodlighting to repair existing damage and therefore maximise the efficiency of the facility for match use, training, small sided / 5-a-side and informal use. Programme temporal pitch use during out of school hours to maximise availability for training and match use. Model pitch layout to reflect demand requirements including consideration of increasing shared usage by sub-dividing or additional marking of smaller pitch areas for separate bookings to increase revenue. 	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC (including revenue from pitch hire) Developer Contributions External Funding 	High	1 – 5 years
Warrenhouse Playing Fields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drainage works to specific pitches (see Appendix H) to mitigate existing issues and ensure future availability. Standard maintenance programme for all pitches to work toward good quality pitch provision to reflect status as a Borough site suitable for sub-regional league play with re-seeding and rolling during off season as appropriate. Maintain a strategic reserve on a rotational basis to ensure a period of rest and recovery for each pitch. Upgrade the quality of changing facilities to maximise the carrying capacity of the site and encourage use by a greater number of local clubs as a hub facility. Model playing pitch layout to reflect demand requirements relative to sport and age groups to maximise efficiency of provision. 	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC (including revenue from pitch hire) Developer Contributions External Funding 	High	1 – 5 years
Wignall Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited maintenance programme for the pitch to ensure suitability for training and informal use as required. Manage outdoor sports use as informal provision only to integrate with the primary function of the site as park and garden. Changing facilities are not appropriate in setting. 	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC Developer Contributions 	Low	Ongoing

Site	Recommended Actions	Responsible Body	Resources	Priority Level	Timescale
<i>Huyton Community Area</i>					
Alt Centre Youth Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invest in upgrades to the quality of the synthetic surface and floodlighting to repair existing damage and therefore maximise the efficiency of the facility for training, small sided / 5-a-side and informal use. Programme temporal pitch use during out of school hours to maximise availability for training and match use. Invest in existing changing facilities to ensure the site is more attractive to assist in re-distributing the demand for training and informal play within Huyton. 	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC Developer Contributions 	Low	1 – 5 years
Alt Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standard maintenance programme for pitch to retain good quality pitch provision to reflect status as a Neighbourhood site, with re-seeding and rolling during off seasons as appropriate. Explore the potential to secure community use of existing changing facilities within the adjacent Youth Club to improve attractiveness for local league play, thereby reducing demand pressure on other pitches. Mark training grid in off pitch area to reduce the demand for on-pitch training. 	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC Developer Contributions 	Low	1 – 5 years
Blacklow Brow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invest in upgrades to the quality and efficiency of the pitch to ensure it is more suitable for local league play, with a standard maintenance programme to work toward good quality pitch provision to reflect potential status as a Neighbourhood site, with weed removal, re-seeding and rolling during off season as appropriate. Explore the possibility of securing community use of existing changing facilities within the school to permit higher levels of league play. Model playing pitch layout to reflect demand requirements relative to sport and age groups to maximise efficiency of provision. Mark training grids in off pitch areas to reduce the demand for on-pitch training. Manage outdoor sports use to integrate with the function of the site as amenity greenspace. 	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC Developer Contributions External Funding 	Medium	1 – 5 years
Christ the King Centre for Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivery of remaining playing pitches as part of the Building Schools for the Future programme. Standard maintenance programme for all pitches and changing facilities to retain good quality pitch provision to reflect status as Borough site suitable for sub-regional league play, with re-seeding and rolling during off season as appropriate. Maintain a strategic reserve upon completion of all remaining pitches on a rotational basis to ensure a period of rest and recovery for each pitch. Programme temporal pitch use during out of school hours to maximise availability for training and match use. Model playing pitch layout to reflect demand requirements relative to sport and age groups to maximise efficiency of provision. Mark training grids in off pitch areas to reduce the demand for on-pitch training. Consideration of increasing shared usage of the synthetic pitch by temporary sub-dividing or additional marking of smaller pitch areas for separate bookings to increase revenue. 	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC (including revenue from pitch hire) Developer Contributions 	High	1 – 5 years

Site	Recommended Actions	Responsible Body	Resources	Priority Level	Timescale
Huyton Arts & Sports Centre for Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standard maintenance programme for all pitches and changing facilities to retain good quality pitch provision to reflect status as a Borough site suitable for sub-regional league play, with re-seeding and rolling during off season as appropriate. Maintain a strategic reserve on a rotational basis to ensure a period of rest and recovery for each pitch. Programme temporal pitch use during out of school hours to maximise availability for training and match use. Model playing pitch layout to reflect demand requirements relative to sport and age groups to maximise efficiency of provision. Mark training grids in off pitch areas to reduce the demand for on-pitch training. Consideration of increasing shared usage of the synthetic pitch by subdividing or additional marking of smaller pitch areas for separate bookings to increase revenue. 	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC (including revenue from pitch hire) Developer Contributions 	Medium	1 – 5 years
Huyton KGV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standard maintenance programme for all pitches and changing facilities to retain good quality pitch provision to reflect status as a Borough site suitable for sub-regional league play, with re-seeding and rolling during off season as appropriate. Maintain a strategic reserve on a rotational basis to ensure a period of rest and recovery for each pitch. Assess where Council managed football facilities (i.e. at Centres for Learning) may be available to re-distribute existing demand pressure from the facility to reduce existing wear and tear. Programme temporal pitch use to maximise availability for training and match use. Model playing pitch layout to reflect demand requirements relative to sport and age groups to maximise efficiency of provision. Mark training grids in off pitch areas to reduce the demand for on-pitch training. 	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC (including revenue from pitch hire) Developer Contributions 	Medium	1 – 5 years
Huyton Cricket Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with Huyton Cricket Club to assess the extent to which Council managed cricket facilities (i.e. at Centres for Learning) can relieve the demand pressure of club use of facilities. Provide advice on appropriate maintenance and management of facilities to maximise quality and carrying capacity to ensure the site is suitable for regional league play. Provide advice on the availability of grant funding to improve existing facilities. 	Huyton Cricket Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> External Funding KMBC (assistance and advice) 	Low	1 – 5 years

Site	Recommended Actions	Responsible Body	Resources	Priority Level	Timescale
Jubilee Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drainage works to specific pitches (see Appendix H) to mitigate existing issues and ensure future availability. • Invest in upgrades to the quality and efficiency of the pitches, together with a standard maintenance programme to work toward good quality pitch provision to reflect potential status as a Borough site suitable for sub-regional league play, with weeding, re-seeding and rolling during off season as appropriate. • Model playing pitch layout to reflect demand requirements relative to sport and age groups to maximise efficiency of provision. • Mark training grids in off pitch areas to reduce the demand for on-pitch training. • Consider upgrades to the existing pavilion to provide changing facilities to ensure the site is more attractive for sports use and can therefore assist in re-distributing the demand in Huyton to relieve the pressure from other sites. • Manage outdoor sports use to integrate with separate function of the site as greenspace. 	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KMBC (including revenue from pitch hire) • Developer Contributions • External Funding 	High	1 – 5 years
Knowsley Recreation Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment in pitches and changing facilities to attain good quality pitch provision to reflect status as a Community Area site suitable for sub-regional league play, together with a standard maintenance programme including weeding, re-seeding and rolling during off season as appropriate. • Assess where Council managed football facilities (i.e. at Centres for Learning) or other available sites may be available to re-distribute existing demand pressure from the facility to reduce existing wear and tear. • Programme temporal pitch use with the Parish Council to maximise availability for training and match use. • Model playing pitch layout to reflect demand requirements relative to sport and age groups to maximise efficiency of provision. • Mark training grids in off pitch areas to reduce the demand for on-pitch training. 	Knowsley Parish Council & Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KMBC • Knowsley Parish Council • Developer Contributions • External Funding 	Medium	1 – 5 years
Lord Derby's Playing Fields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership working with Knowsley South FC to ensure standard maintenance programme for all pitches and changing facilities to retain good quality pitch provision to reflect status as a Borough site suitable for sub-regional league play, with re-seeding and rolling during off season as appropriate. • Recommend establishing a strategic reserve on a rotational basis to ensure a period of rest and recovery for each pitch. • Assess where Council managed football facilities (i.e. at Centres for Learning) may be available to re-distribute existing demand pressure from the facility to reduce existing wear and tear. • Recommend modelling playing pitch layout to reflect demand requirements relative to sport and age groups to maximise efficiency of provision. • Recommend marking training grids in off pitch areas to reduce the demand for on-pitch training. 	Knowsley South FC & Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KMBC • Developer Contributions • External Funding 	Medium	1 – 5 years

Site	Recommended Actions	Responsible Body	Resources	Priority Level	Timescale
Manor Farm Road / Cowper Way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited maintenance programme for the pitch, to ensure suitability for training and informal use as required. Manage outdoor sports use as informal provision only to integrate with the primary function of the site as amenity greenspace. 	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC Developer Contributions 	Low	Ongoing
Mill Lane, Knowsley Village	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drainage works to mitigate existing issues and ensure future availability. Invest in upgrades to the quality and efficiency of the pitch to ensure it is more suitable for local league play, including new goalposts, together with a standard maintenance programme to work toward good quality pitch provision to reflect potential status as a Neighbourhood site, with weed removal, re-seeding and rolling during off season Manage outdoor sports use to integrate with separate function of the site as greenspace – changing facilities and car parking not appropriate in setting. 	Knowsley Parish Council & Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC Developer Contributions External Funding 	High	1 – 5 years
Nyland Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited maintenance programme for the pitch, to ensure suitability for training and informal use as required. Manage outdoor sports use as informal provision only to integrate with the primary function of the site as amenity greenspace. Changing facilities are not appropriate due to limited scale of site. 	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC Developer Contributions 	Low	Ongoing
Pool Hey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drainage works to mitigate existing issues and ensure future availability. Invest in upgrades to the quality and efficiency of the pitch to ensure it is more suitable for local league play, with a standard maintenance programme to work toward good quality pitch provision to reflect potential status as a Neighbourhood site, with weed removal, re-seeding and rolling during off season Remodel the playing fields to secure a higher and more efficient density of available pitch provision and carrying capacity relative to the land area and to reflect demand requirements relative to sport and age groups. Consider favourably any appropriate opportunities to proportionally consolidate the overall land area as part of wider regeneration priorities (i.e. footprint of former school site), provided that any such scheme secures investment which will improve the quality and accessibility of remaining provision. Assess opportunities to invest in delivery of changing facilities to increase the attractiveness of the site for local league play, particularly junior football which is presently vacant. Recommend establishing a strategic reserve on a rotational basis to ensure a period of rest and recovery for each pitch. Recommend marking training grids in off pitch areas to reduce the demand for on-pitch training. 	Knowsley Parish Council & Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC Developer Contributions Private Investment External Funding 	High	1 – 5 years

Site	Recommended Actions	Responsible Body	Resources	Priority Level	Timescale
Roby Recreation Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drainage works to specific pitches (see Appendix H) to mitigate existing issues and ensure future availability. • Standard maintenance programme for all pitches to work toward good quality pitch provision to reflect status as a Community Area site suitable for local league play with weeding, re-seeding and rolling during off season. • Maintain a strategic reserve on a rotational basis to ensure a period of rest and recovery for each pitch. • Upgrade changing facilities to maximise the carrying capacity of the site and encourage use by a greater number of local clubs to release the demand pressure from other sites in Huyton Community Area. • Model playing pitch layout to reflect demand requirements relative to sport and age groups to maximise efficiency of provision. • Recommend marking training grids in off pitch areas to reduce the demand for on-pitch training. 	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KMBC (including revenue from pitch hire) • Developer Contributions • External Funding 	High	1 – 5 years
Swanside Playing Fields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drainage works to mitigate existing issues and ensure future availability. • Invest in upgrades to the quality and efficiency of the pitches to ensure the site is more suitable for local league play, with a standard maintenance programme to work toward good quality pitch provision to reflect potential status as a Neighbourhood site, with weed removal, re-seeding and rolling during off season as appropriate. • Model playing pitch layout to reflect demand requirements relative to sport and age groups to maximise efficiency of provision. • Explore the possibility of securing community use of existing changing facilities within the school to permit higher levels of league play. • Manage outdoor sports use to integrate with separate function of the site as greenspace • Mark training grids in off pitch areas to reduce the demand for on-pitch training. 	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KMBC • Developer Contributions • External Funding 	Medium	1 – 5 years
West View	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drainage works to mitigate existing issues and ensure future availability. • Invest in upgrades to the quality and efficiency of the pitch to ensure it is more suitable for local league play, with a standard maintenance programme to work toward good quality pitch provision to reflect potential status as a Neighbourhood site, with weed removal, re-seeding and rolling during off season as appropriate. • Manage outdoor sports use to integrate with separate function of the site as greenspace – changing facilities and car parking not appropriate in setting. 	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KMBC • Developer Contributions • External Funding 	Medium	1 – 5 years

Site	Recommended Actions	Responsible Body	Resources	Priority Level	Timescale
Whitefield Cricket Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership working with Whitefield Cricket Club to secure external investment in upgrades to the existing pavilion and changing facilities to ensure that the site is suitable for regional league play. Ensure that Council managed cricket facilities (i.e. at Centres for Learning) are available to re-distribute existing demand pressure from the facility to reduce existing over play. Drainage works, weed removal, re-seeding and rolling of the pitches / field are all required in off seasons as appropriate to mitigate existing issues associated to wear and tear, together with standard maintenance to maximising the quality and attractiveness of the facility as a Community Area site. 	Whitefield Cricket Club & Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC Developer Contributions External Funding 	High	1 – 5 years
<i>Prescot, Whiston and Cronton Community Area</i>					
Hall Lane Park (The Pasture)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invest in upgrades to the quality and efficiency of the pitches to ensure they remains suitable for local league play with standard maintenance programme to work toward good quality pitch provision to reflect potential status as a Neighbourhood site, with weed removal, re-seeding and rolling during off season as appropriate. Manage outdoor sports use as informal provision only to integrate with the primary function of the site as park and garden – changing facilities not appropriate in setting. 	Cronton Parish Council & Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC Developer Contributions External Funding 	Medium	1 – 5 years
Knowsley Park Centre for Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standard maintenance programme for all pitches and changing facilities to retain good quality pitch provision to reflect status as a Borough site suitable for sub-regional league play, with re-seeding and rolling during off season as appropriate. Maintain a strategic reserve on a rotational basis to ensure a period of rest and recovery for each pitch. Programme temporal pitch use during out of school hours to maximise availability for training and match use. Model playing pitch layout to reflect demand requirements relative to sport and age groups to maximise efficiency of provision and to ensure dimensions conform to NGB requirements. Mark training grids in off pitch areas to reduce the demand for on-pitch training. 	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC (including revenue from pitch hire) Developer Contributions 	Medium	1 – 5 years
Lickers Lane / Windy Arbor Road Recreation Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership working with Whiston Juniors FC to ensure standard maintenance programme for all pitches and changing facilities to retain good quality pitch provision to reflect status as a Borough site suitable for sub-regional league play, with re-seeding and rolling during off season. Recommend establishing a strategic reserve on a rotational basis to ensure a period of rest and recovery for each pitch. Assess where Council managed football facilities (i.e. at Centres for Learning) may be available to re-distribute existing demand pressure from the facility to reduce existing wear and tear. Recommend modelling playing pitch layout to reflect demand requirements relative to sport and age groups to maximise efficiency of provision. Recommend marking training grids in off pitch areas to reduce the demand for on-pitch training. 	Whiston Juniors FC, Whiston Town Council & Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC Developer Contributions External Funding 	Medium	1 – 5 years

Site	Recommended Actions	Responsible Body	Resources	Priority Level	Timescale
Parklands Sports Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with Parklands Sports Club to assess the extent to which Council managed facilities (i.e. at Centres for Learning) can relieve the demand pressure of club use of facilities. Provide advice on appropriate maintenance and management of facilities to maximise quality and carrying capacity to ensure the site is suitable for regional league play. Provide advice on the availability of grant funding to improve existing facilities. 	Parklands Sports Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> External Funding KMBC (assistance and advice) 	Low	1 – 5 years
Prescot Leisure Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain quality of the surface and floodlighting and therefore maximise the efficiency of the facility for match use, training, small sided / 5-a-side and informal use. Programme temporal pitch use to maximise availability for training and match use. Model playing pitch layout to reflect demand requirements including consideration of increasing shared usage by sub-dividing or additional marking of smaller pitch areas for separate bookings to increase revenue. Engage with Prescot Hockey Club to assess the extent to which Council managed facilities (i.e. at Centres for Learning) can relieve the demand pressure of club use of facilities. Provide advice to Prescot Hockey Club on the availability of grant funding to improve existing facilities. 	Prescot Hockey Club, Prescot Town Council & Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC Developer Contributions External Funding 	Medium	1 – 5 years
Prescot KGV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drainage works to specific pitches (see Appendix H) to mitigate existing issues and ensure future availability. Standard maintenance programme for all pitches to work toward good quality pitch provision to reflect status as a Community Area site suitable for sub-regional league play with weeding, re-seeding and rolling during off season as appropriate. Maintain a strategic reserve on a rotational basis to ensure a period of rest and recovery for each pitch. Programme temporal pitch use to maximise availability for training and match use. Upgrade changing and car parking facilities to maximise the carrying capacity of the site and encourage use by a greater number of local clubs to release the demand pressure from other sites in Prescot, Whiston and Cronton Community Area. Model playing pitch layout to reflect demand requirements relative to sport and age groups to maximise efficiency of provision. Recommend marking training grids in off pitch areas to reduce the demand for on-pitch training. 	Prescot Town Council & Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC Developer Contributions External Funding 	High	1 – 5 years

Site	Recommended Actions	Responsible Body	Resources	Priority Level	Timescale
St. Edmund Arrowsmith Centre for Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standard maintenance programme for all pitches and changing facilities to retain good quality pitch provision to reflect status as a Borough site suitable for sub-regional league play, with re-seeding and rolling during off season as appropriate. Maintain a strategic reserve on a rotational basis to ensure a period of rest and recovery for each pitch. Programme temporal pitch use during out of school hours to maximise availability for training and match use. Model playing pitch layout to reflect demand requirements relative to sport and age groups to maximise efficiency of provision. Mark training grids in off pitch areas to reduce the demand for on-pitch training. Consideration of increasing shared usage of the synthetic pitch by subdividing or additional marking of smaller pitch areas for separate bookings to increase revenue. 	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC (including revenue from pitch hire) Developer Contributions 	Medium	1 – 5 years
Two Butt Lane	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drainage works to specific pitches (see Appendix H) to mitigate existing issues and ensure future availability. Standard maintenance programme for all pitches to work toward good quality pitch provision to reflect status as a Community Area site suitable for sub-regional league play with weeding, re-seeding and rolling during off season as appropriate. Maintain a strategic reserve on a rotational basis to ensure a period of rest and recovery for each pitch. Programme temporal pitch use to maximise availability for training and match use. Consider investment in changing facilities and upgrades to car parking to maximise the carrying capacity of the site and encourage use by a greater number of local clubs to release the demand pressure from other sites in Prescot, Whiston and Cronton Community Area. Model playing pitch layout to reflect demand requirements relative to sport and age groups to maximise efficiency of provision. Recommend marking training grids in off pitch areas to reduce the demand for on-pitch training. 	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC (including revenue from pitch hire) Developer Contributions External Funding 	High	1 – 5 years
Valerie Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with Prescot Cables FC to assess the extent to which Council managed facilities (i.e. at Centres for Learning) can relieve the demand pressure of club use of facilities. Provide advice on appropriate maintenance and management of facilities (i.e. pitch, changing facilities, spectator areas and floodlighting) to maximise quality and carrying capacity to ensure the site is suitable for regional or national league play to reflect its status as a Borough site. Provide advice on the availability of grant funding to improve existing facilities. 	Prescot Cables FC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> External Funding KMBC (assistance and advice) 	Low	1 – 5 years

Site	Recommended Actions	Responsible Body	Resources	Priority Level	Timescale
Whiston Willis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standard maintenance programme for pitch to retain good quality pitch provision to reflect status as a Community Area site, with re-seeding and rolling during off season. Explore the possibility of securing community use of existing changing facilities within the school to permit higher levels of league play. Programme temporal pitch use during out of school hours to maximise availability for training and match use. Model playing pitch layout to reflect demand requirements relative to sport and age groups to maximise efficiency of provision. Mark training grids in off pitch areas to reduce the demand for on-pitch training. 	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC (including revenue from pitch hire) Developer Contributions 	Medium	1 – 5 years
<i>Halewood Community Area</i>					
Arncliffe Sports Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standard maintenance programme for all pitches and changing facilities to retain good quality pitch provision to reflect status as a Borough site suitable for sub-regional league play, with re-seeding and rolling during off season as appropriate. Maintain a strategic reserve on a rotational basis to ensure a period of rest and recovery for each pitch. Assess where Council managed football facilities (i.e. at Centres for Learning) may be available to re-distribute existing demand pressure from the facility to reduce existing wear and tear. Programme temporal pitch use to maximise availability for training and match use. Model playing pitch layout to reflect demand requirements relative to sport and age groups to maximise efficiency of provision. Mark training grids in off pitch areas to reduce the demand for on-pitch training. 	Halewood Town Council & Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC Developer Contributions External Funding 	Medium	1 – 5 years
Frederick Lunt Playing Fields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standard maintenance programme for all pitches to work toward good quality pitch provision to reflect status as a Neighbourhood site suitable for local league play with weeding, re-seeding and rolling during off season as appropriate. Maintain a strategic reserve on a rotational basis to ensure a period of rest and recovery for each pitch. Programme temporal pitch use to maximise availability for training and match use. Consider investment in changing facilities and upgrades to car parking to maximise the carrying capacity of the site and encourage use by a greater number of local clubs to release the demand pressure from other sites in Halewood Community Area. Model playing pitch layout to reflect demand requirements relative to sport and age groups to maximise efficiency of provision. Recommend marking training grids in off pitch areas to reduce the demand for on-pitch training. 	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC (including revenue from pitch hire) Developer Contributions External Funding 	Medium	1 – 5 years
Former Greengates Primary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivery of playing pitch facilities available for community use as part of Building Schools for the Future programme to support Halewood Centre for Learning 	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC 	High	1 – 5 years

Site	Recommended Actions	Responsible Body	Resources	Priority Level	Timescale
Grace Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invest in upgrades to the quality and efficiency of the pitch to ensure it is suitable for local league play with standard maintenance programme to work toward good quality pitch provision to reflect potential status as a Neighbourhood site, with weed removal, re-seeding and rolling during off season as appropriate. Manage outdoor sports use as informal provision only to integrate with the primary function of the site as park and garden – changing facilities not appropriate in setting. 	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC Developer Contributions External Funding 	Medium	1 – 5 years
Halewood Centre for Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standard maintenance programme for all pitches and changing facilities to retain good quality pitch provision to reflect status as a Borough site suitable for sub-regional league play, with re-seeding and rolling during off season as appropriate. Maintain a strategic reserve on a rotational basis to ensure a period of rest and recovery for each pitch. Programme temporal pitch use during out of school hours to maximise availability for training and match use. Model playing pitch layout to reflect demand requirements relative to sport and age groups to maximise efficiency of provision. Mark training grids in off pitch areas to reduce the demand for on-pitch training. Consideration of increasing shared usage of the synthetic pitch by subdividing or additional marking of smaller pitch areas for separate bookings to increase revenue. 	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC (including revenue from pitch hire) Developer Contributions 	Medium	1 – 5 years
Halewood Doorstep Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited maintenance programme for the pitch, with rolling and re-seeding during off season as appropriate to ensure suitability for training and informal use as required. Manage outdoor sports use as informal provision only to integrate with the primary function of the site as park and garden. Changing facilities are not appropriate in setting. 	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC Developer Contributions 	Low	Ongoing
Halewood Leisure Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standard maintenance programme for all pitches and changing facilities to retain good quality pitch provision to reflect status as a Borough site suitable for sub-regional league play, with re-seeding and rolling during off season as appropriate. Maintain a strategic reserve on a rotational basis to ensure a period of rest and recovery for each pitch. Assess where Council managed football facilities (i.e. at Centres for Learning) may be available to re-distribute existing demand pressure from the facility to reduce existing wear and tear. Programme temporal pitch use to maximise availability for training and match use. Model playing pitch layout to reflect demand requirements relative to sport and age groups to maximise efficiency of provision. Mark training grids in off pitch areas to reduce the demand for on-pitch training. 	Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC (including revenue from pitch hire) Developer Contributions 	Medium	1 – 5 years

Site	Recommended Actions	Responsible Body	Resources	Priority Level	Timescale
Hollies Recreation Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standard maintenance programme for all pitches and changing facilities to retain good quality pitch provision to reflect status as a Community Area site suitable for sub-regional league play, with re-seeding and rolling during off season as appropriate. Assess where Council managed football facilities (i.e. at Centres for Learning) may be available to re-distribute existing demand pressure from the facility to reduce existing wear and tear. Programme temporal pitch use to maximise availability for training and match use. Model playing pitch layout to reflect demand requirements relative to sport and age groups to maximise efficiency of provision. Mark training grids in off pitch areas to reduce the demand for on-pitch training. 	Halewood Town Council & Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMBC Developer Contributions External Funding 	High	1 – 5 years
Pentagon Sports Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with Pentagon Sports and Social Club to assess the extent to which Council managed facilities (i.e. at Centres for Learning) can relieve the demand pressure of club use of facilities. Provide advice on appropriate maintenance and management of facilities to maximise quality and carrying capacity to ensure the site is suitable for regional league play. Provide advice on the availability of grant funding to improve existing facilities. 	Pentagon Sports and Social Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> External Funding KMBC (assistance and advice) 	Low	1 – 5 years

