

Medway Council



Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Facilities Study

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Ploszajski Lynch Consulting Ltd.



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The aims of the study

- 1) The aims of the study are to:
 - a) The development of policy options.
 - b) Key recommendations for future action planning.
 - c) The establishment of local standards for integration into the Local Development Framework strategic allocations Development Plan Document.
 - d) Identification of priorities and funding streams for investment.

What the strategy covers

- 2) The pitches covered in the study were all those in the local authority area of the following types, including those not currently available for community use:
 - a) Football (mini, youth, adult).
 - b) Cricket.
 - c) Rugby Union and League (mini, junior, adult).
 - d) Artificial Turf Pitches.
 - e) Synthetic athletics tracks.
 - f) Bowling greens.
 - g) Tennis courts.
 - h) Golf courses.
 - i) Multi-use games areas (MUGAs).

About Medway

- 3) **Population:** The current population of Medway is 263,900. The relatively youthful population structure is likely to inflate relative demand in the study area for the sports that use playing pitches.
- 4) **Ethnicity:** The ethnicity of 90.6% of the population is classified as 'White'. Black and minority ethnic groups traditionally have lower rates of involvement in physical activity, so demand levels in predominantly White populations should normally generate above average demand.
- 5) **Growth:** Population growth of 16,100 people (a 6.1% increase) by 2028 will inflate demand for pitches and outdoor sports facilities. Existing playing fields may come under threat of development to accommodate new housing. However, developer contributions will provide an opportunity to fund provision that will demonstrably meet the needs of the new residents.

- 6) ***Income:*** The relatively low wage local economy will limit the amount of disposable income available for discretionary spending on activities such as sport and should therefore decrease demand levels.
- 7) ***Health:*** Poor health indices locally underline the importance of ensuring access to sports facilities including pitches, as part of a wider strategy to get the local population more physically active.
- 8) ***Deprivation:*** Although the deprivation indices for Medway as a whole are around the national average, there are significant variations at a more local level. Since deprivation is associated with lower rates for participation in sport and physical activity, patterns of demand are likely to vary within the study area as a whole.

Sport in Medway

- 9) ***Participation rates:*** Overall participation rates in Medway are well below the regional and national averages, suggesting that demand for sports facilities locally will be commensurately lower locally. However, outdoor sports participation rates locally are for the most part marginally higher than the national average.
- 10) ***Satisfaction:*** Levels of satisfaction with local sports provision have increased over the survey period and now stand above the regional and national averages. This implies that there the quantity and quality of local provision is judged by participants to meet their needs.
- 11) ***Market segmentation:*** The Market Segmentation data suggests that demand for outdoor sports is likely to be higher than the national average, given the relatively large proportion of Medway residents from market segments which traditionally favour football, cricket, golf and bowls.

Meeting local priorities

- 12) ***Introduction:*** Several important policy documents in Medway provide the overall framework within which the study has been developed and have influenced the development of the options for addressing deficiencies.
- 13) ***The Medway Council Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy:*** Both documents include priorities to promote and encourage healthy lifestyles and the provision of playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities will support such initiatives.
- 14) ***The Medway Cultural Strategy:*** The Cultural Strategy contains the target to increase adult participation rates by 8% and children's by 10% by 2014, which if achieved will have significant implications on demand for playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities.
- 15) ***The Medway Development Plan:*** The Plan contains policies that are generally supportive of new and improved playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities and also the protection of existing provision.
- 16) ***The Open Space Study:*** The study provides a helpful starting point for a more detailed analysis of playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities, by identifying and applying a generic standard of provision to establish existing and future shortfalls.

Meeting wider priorities

- 17) **Introduction:** The external policy context for playing pitch provision has an important influence in Medway and this is defined in the following documents.
- 18) **National Planning Policy Framework:** The '*National Planning Policy Framework*' affirms the importance of playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities in sustainable development and confirms the need to assess local needs and opportunities for open space, sport and recreation facilities and to develop local standards of provision.
- 19) **Sport England:** Sport England's strategy places emphasis on developing facilities and activity programmes on school sites, which highlights the need to formalise existing community access to education pitches in Medway and to develop additional opportunities, using available Sport England funding where appropriate. Sport England's planning policies focus upon the need to plan for playing pitch provision on the basis of assessments of need, taking account of the strategic plans of the governing bodies of sport, but also based upon a detailed appraisal of local circumstances.
- 20) **Football:** The Football Association's strategy will have the following impact:
- a) The emphasis on small-sided and shorter formats of the game may shift demand away from full-sized grass pitches to smaller, floodlit, synthetic turf facilities.
 - b) The changes in pitch sizes and competition formats arising from the Youth Development Review will need to be accommodated.
- 21) **Cricket:** The key priority of the England and Wales Cricket Board is to create sustainable clubs by encouraging clubs to create a culture that embraces change, advocates best practice and understands that people are the most important asset of a cricket club.
- 22) **Rugby:** The Rugby Football Union has a priority to increase the provision of integrated changing facilities that are child friendly and can sustain concurrent male and female activity at the club.
- 23) **England Hockey:** Two of the eight synthetic turf pitches in Medway were installed more than ten years ago, so England Hockey's priority for pitch renewal and upgrades will be significant.
- 24) **Neighbouring local authorities:** Policy documents and assessment of sports facilities and open space provision from neighbouring local authorities will impact upon pitch provision in Medway. In particular, assessed shortfalls in the provision of pitches in the northern parts of Maidstone and Tonbridge and Malling may import demand to the southern part of the study area.

Identifying local needs

- 25) **Introduction:** The analysis of local need for playing pitches in Medway has highlighted a number of key issues that are reflected in the study assessment.
- 26) **Priority:** Almost half (47%) of the respondents to the community survey believe that there are too few pitches and outdoor sports facilities in Medway at present. Perceptions of facility quality are generally positive.

- 27) **Use:** Only 21% of community respondents use pitches and outdoor sports facilities.
- 28) **Sports clubs:** All the clubs who responded have access to facilities at their location of choice and 84.6% of them say they are always available when needed, which suggests that local facility supply is good. Perceptions of facility quality are generally positive, although changing facilities are the aspect that is least favourably rated.
- 29) **Stakeholder consultation:** Consultation with other local stakeholders highlighted a number of quality issues with pitch and related facility provision in Medway.

Playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities demand

- 30) **Introduction:** Demand in Medway was assessed as follows. The analysis involved gathering data on teams and analysing it at an overall study area level and also in five sub-areas (Chatham, Gillingham, Rainham, Rochester and Strood and Rural).
- 31) **Adult football:** There are 187 teams or team equivalents in Medway. The proportion of the adult population plays football locally is above the regional and national averages. Sub-area satisfied demand is relatively even across the study area, although is lowest by far in the Rochester sub-area.
- 32) **Youth football:** There are 199 teams or team equivalents in the study area. Sub-area satisfied demand is relatively consistent across Medway, although is significantly lower than the average in the Rochester sub-area.
- 33) **Mini-soccer:** There are 127 teams or team equivalents in Medway. There are wide variations in sub-area satisfied demand across the study area, with the highest number of teams per capita in Rainham and lowest in Strood and Rural.
- 34) **Cricket:** There are 47 adult and 45 junior teams in Medway. Sub-area satisfied demand is highest in Rochester and lowest in Gillingham.
- 35) **Rugby Union:** There are 22 adult, 20 junior and 7 mini rugby teams or team equivalents in Medway.
- 36) **Rugby League:** The Medway Dragons club meets local demand and provides teams for all age groups, both genders and disabled players.
- 37) **Hockey:** There are 78 adult and 20 junior teams or team equivalents in Medway.
- 38) **Athletics:** The Medway and Maidstone club meets demand in both areas for track and field athletics.
- 39) **Bowls:** There are eight bowls clubs in Medway, with a relatively even distribution across the five sub-areas, although per capita provision in Chatham is more than twice as sparse as the study area average.
- 40) **Tennis:** Three clubs meet needs for competitive play, supplemented by parks and schools courts that serve the needs of casual players.
- 41) **Golf:** Three clubs meet needs for competitive play. All allow pay-and-play use by non-members.

Playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities supply

- 42) **Introduction:** Supply was assessed by compiling data on the number and location of provision and undertaking a site visit to all facilities to check on quality. All provision was then mapped to check their accessibility in all parts of the study area.
- 43) **Adult football:** There are 98 adult pitches in Medway, although 35 of these are below 'average' quality, so the adjusted figure for pitch carrying capacity is 80.5. The per capita levels of provision are similar to neighbouring Gravesham and are relatively even across the study area. No parts of Medway are beyond a 15 minute drivetime of the nearest pitch. Around 75% of adult pitches have secured public access.
- 44) **Youth football:** There are 48 youth pitches in Medway, although 18 of these are below 'average' quality, so the adjusted figure for pitch carrying capacity is 39. The per capita levels of provision are around 20% lower than in neighbouring Gravesham and are relatively even across the study area. Apart from a small area around Allhallows-on-Sea, no parts of Medway are beyond a 15 minute drivetime of the nearest pitch. Around two-thirds of youth pitches have secured public access.
- 45) **Mini-soccer:** There are only 25 permanently marked mini-soccer pitches in Medway, although since many mini-soccer pitches are marked out temporarily across other pitches, with moveable goal posts and cones, pitches are likely to be undercounted. 5 of the permanent pitches are below 'average' quality, so the adjusted figure for pitch carrying capacity is 22.5. The per capita levels of provision are 20% lower than in neighbouring Gravesham and are particularly poor in the urban sub-areas. Apart from a small area around Allhallows-on-Sea, no parts of Medway are beyond a 15 minute drivetime of the nearest pitch. Only 18% of mini-soccer pitches are on sites with secured public access.
- 46) **Cricket:** There are 19 cricket pitches in Medway, although one of these is below 'average' quality, so the adjusted figure for pitch carrying capacity is 18.5. The per capita levels of provision are around 65% lower than in neighbouring Gravesham and provision varies widely across the study area, but is best in Rochester. With the exception of small areas around Grain and Upper Halling, all parts of Medway are within the catchment of at least one pitch. Two-thirds of cricket pitches have secured public access.
- 47) **Rugby:** There are 24 rugby union and league pitches in Medway, although two of these are below 'average' quality, so the adjusted figure for pitch carrying capacity is 22. The per capita levels of provision are around 50% lower than in neighbouring Gravesham and provision varies widely across the study area, reflecting the dispersed nature of demand from the four clubs in Medway. With the exception of small areas around Grain, north of Cliffe, Hoo St. Werbergh and Upper Halling, all parts of Medway are within the catchment of at least one pitch 50% of rugby pitches have secured public access.
- 48) **Synthetic turf pitches:** There are 8 synthetic turf pitches in Medway. The per capita levels of provision are better than all the neighbouring areas although provision varies widely across the study area, but is best in Rochester. With the exception of small areas around Grain and north of Cliffe, all parts of Medway are within the catchment of at least one pitch. 50% of pitches have secured public access. Only one pitch has the 'Third Generation' (3G) surface favoured for football usage.

- 49) **Athletics:** There are two synthetic tracks in Medway. The per capita levels of provision are higher than all the neighbouring local authorities apart from Maidstone and are almost twice as high as UK Athletics recommended minimum levels of provision. With the exception of small areas around Upper Halling and north of Cliffe, all parts of Medway are within the catchment of at least one track. The quality of all aspects of track provision is rated as at least ‘average’.
- 50) **Bowls:** There are ten bowls greens in Medway. The per capita levels of provision are the poorest of all the neighbouring local authorities. All parts of Medway are within the catchment of at least one green. The mean quality scores equates to a value of above ‘average’ but some individual aspects of most facilities are rated as ‘below average’ or ‘poor’:
- 51) **Tennis:** There are 67 tennis courts at 18 sites in Medway. The per capita levels of provision are the poorest of all the neighbouring local authorities. Levels of provision vary widely between the sub-areas, but are poorest in Gillingham. With the exception of an area in the north-east of the study area, around Grain, all parts of Medway are within the catchment of at least one court. The mean quality scores equates to a value of above ‘average’ but some individual aspects of most facilities are rated as ‘below average’ or ‘poor’:
- 52) **Golf:** There are three golf courses (2.5 eighteen-hole units) in Medway, comprising 45 holes. The per capita levels of provision are by far the poorest of all the neighbouring local authorities, however all parts of the study area are within the catchment of at least one course. The mean quality scores equates to a value of above ‘average’ but one facility is rated as ‘below average’.
- 53) **MUGAs:** There are 18 Multi-use Games Areas in Medway, but per capita levels of provision are around 30% lower than in neighbouring Gravesham. Levels of provision vary widely between the sub-areas, but are poorest in Gillingham. Because the 10 minutes walking time catchment is fairly limited, large parts of Medway are beyond the catchment of a MUGA. The mean quality scores equates to a value of above ‘average’.

Standards of provision

- 54) **Introduction:** The balance between pitch and outdoor sports facilities supply and demand was assessed by developing and minimum recommended standards to establish the adequacy of current and future provision.

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Standard</i>
Adult football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One adult pitch (1.2ha) per 4,300 people. • All aspects of all pitches and ancillary facilities should rate ‘average’ or better. • The whole population within 15 minutes walk or drive of the nearest pitch.
Youth football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One youth pitch (0.75ha) per 3,500 people. • All aspects of all pitches and ancillary facilities should rate ‘average’ or better. • The whole population within 15 minutes walk or drive of the nearest pitch.
Mini-soccer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One mini-soccer pitch (0.2ha) per 8,300 people. • All aspects of all pitches and ancillary facilities should rate ‘average’ or better. • The whole population within 15 minutes walk or drive of the nearest pitch.
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One cricket pitch (1.2ha) per 11,100 people. • All aspects of all pitches and ancillary facilities should rate ‘average’ or better. • The whole population within 15 minutes walk or drive of the nearest pitch.

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Standard</i>
Rugby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One rugby pitch (1.25ha) per 16,400 people. • All aspects of all pitches and ancillary facilities should rate ‘average’ or better. • The whole population within 20 minutes walk or drive of the nearest pitch.
Synthetic turf pitch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One synthetic turf pitch per 32,000 people. • All aspects of all pitches and ancillary facilities should rate ‘average’ or better. • The whole population within 20 minutes walk or drive of the nearest pitch.
Athletics track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One athletics track per 250,000 people. • All aspects of all facilities should rate ‘average’ or better. • The whole population within 20 minutes drive of the nearest track.
Bowling green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One bowling green per 25,000 people. • All aspects of all greens and ancillary facilities should rate ‘average’ or better. • The whole population within 20 minutes walk or drive of the nearest green.
Tennis court	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One tennis court per 3,000 people. • All aspects of all courts and ancillary facilities should rate ‘average’ or better. • The whole population within 15 minutes walk or drive of the nearest court.
Golf course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One golf course per 50,000 people (equivalent to one hole per 2,850 people). • All aspects of all courses and ancillary facilities should rate ‘average’ or better. • The whole population within 15 minutes walk or drive of the nearest course.
MUGA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One MUGA per 10,000 people. • All aspects of all MUGAs should rate ‘average’ or better. • The whole population within 10 minutes walk of the nearest MUGA.

55) **Assessment of needs:** The standards were applied to assess:

- Current provision:** The extent to which the existing population is served by good quality, accessible provision.
- Future needs:** These have been modelled based upon a projected increase of 16,100 people in the study area by 2028.

<i>Pitch type</i>	<i>Provision in 2012*</i>	<i>Needs in 2012</i>	<i>Extra needs in 2028</i>	<i>Total needs in 2028</i>
Adult football pitches	98 (80.5)	61.4	3.7	66
Youth football pitches	48 (39)	74.8	4.6	81
Mini-soccer pitches	25 (22.5)	32.5	1.9	35
Cricket pitches	19 (18.5)	22.9	0.7	24
Rugby pitches	24 (22)	17.1	0.7	18
Synthetic turf pitches	8	8	0.5	8.5
Athletics tracks	2	2	0	2
Bowling greens	10	10	0.6	11
Tennis courts	67	88	4.6	93
Golf courses	2.5	5	0.3	5.5
MUGAs	18	27	2.5	30

* Pitch carrying capacity shown in brackets.

56) **Qualitative needs:** The table below summarises the current quality of provision:

<i>Facility type</i>	<i>No. facilities below 'average'</i>	<i>% facilities below 'average'</i>
Adult football	35	35.7%
Youth football	18	37.5%
Mini-soccer	5	20.0%
Cricket	1	5.7%
Rugby	2	8.3%
Synthetic turf pitches	0	0.0%
Athletics tracks	0	0.0%
Bowling greens	6	60.0%
Tennis courts	7	38.9%
Golf courses	1	33.3%
MUGAs	1	5.6%

57) **Spatial requirements:** In terms of the additional land take (including run-offs/safety margins) required to meet the identified shortfalls, were the deficiencies to be met by making entirely new provision, the implications for current and future requirements are as follows:

a) **Current shortfalls:** The total requirements are for an additional 213.1ha.

<i>Facility type</i>	<i>Extra facilities needed</i>	<i>Area per facility (Ha)</i>	<i>Total land take (Ha)</i>
Adult football pitches	0	1.2ha	0
Youth football pitches	36	0.75ha	27.0ha
Mini-soccer pitches	11	0.2ha	2.2ha
Cricket pitches	5	1.2ha	6.0ha
Rugby pitches	0	1.25ha	0
Synthetic turf pitches	0	1.2ha	0
Athletics tracks	0	2.0ha	0
Bowling greens	0	1.0ha	0
Tennis courts	21	0.1ha	2.1ha
Golf courses	2.5	70.0ha	175.0ha
MUGAs	8	0.1ha	0.8ha

b) **Future shortfalls:** The total requirements are for an additional 44.0ha.

<i>Facility type</i>	<i>Extra facilities needed</i>	<i>Area per facility (Ha)</i>	<i>Total land take (Ha)</i>
Adult football pitches	0	1.2ha	0
Youth football pitches	5	0.75ha	3.75ha
Mini-soccer pitches	2	0.2ha	0.4ha
Cricket pitches	1	1.2ha	1.2ha
Rugby pitches	1	1.25ha	1.25ha
Synthetic turf pitches	0.5	1.2ha	0.6ha
Athletics tracks	0	2.0ha	0
Bowling greens	1	1.0ha	1.0ha
Tennis courts	5	0.1ha	0.5ha
Golf courses	0.5	70.0ha	35.0ha
MUGAs	3	0.1ha	0.3ha

Planning policy

- 58) **Introduction:** The key considerations in developing playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities planning policy are as follows.
- 59) **Planning standards:** The standards of provision proposed in the study are based upon a detailed assessment of local needs and provide a robust and defensible means of defining the adequacy of provision.
- 60) **Minimum standards of provision:** The standards of provision should be regarded as the minimum levels required to meet existing needs.
- 61) **Existing and new developments:** New residential developments may offer the opportunity to achieve enhanced levels of pitch and outdoor sports facilities provision, recognising that the current standards represent the minimum amounts that are needed.
- 62) **Quality of provision:** Quality criteria were set to define the condition to which each pitch type in the study area should aspire.
- 63) **Multi-functionality:** Many pitch sites serve other open space functions and therefore even where a site might notionally be surplus to provision based upon its primary function, it may serve other subsidiary roles.
- 64) **Provision relating to new developments:** All residential developments should make appropriate provision for playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities. Because in most instances on-site provision is not achievable, a financial contribution will be sought from developers towards the improvement of provision elsewhere.
- 65) **'Surplus' provision:** In some instances the application of the local standards produces an apparent 'surplus' of provision. However, this should not automatically be interpreted as signifying that the 'surplus' could be disposed of because:
- a) The standards against which the 'surplus' was assessed are the minimum that are required to meet current local needs. Local concentrations of existing demand and future increases in usage will both inflate the amount of provision needed to levels well above the minimum stipulation.
 - b) An apparent 'surplus' in one form of provision (for example adult football pitches) will often compensate for shortfalls in other types of provision locally (for example youth football pitches).

Dealing with deficiencies

- 66) **New provision:** Providing new pitches and outdoor sports facilities may be the only means of securing additional provision in the right location. This can be achieved by:
- a) Identifying entirely new sites for provision in appropriate locations.
 - b) Extending existing provision where feasible.
 - c) Disposing of existing facilities to reinvest the capital receipt in new provision.
 - d) Incorporating facilities into new community provision and housing developments.

- 67) **Upgrading and refurbishing:** Upgrading and refurbishing existing facilities and changing would meet some of the qualitative deficiencies identified:
- a) The provision of floodlights for some facilities would extend the period in which they can be used.
 - b) Drainage improvements to grass pitches enables them to accommodate more play, with fewer postponed fixtures.
 - c) Changing facilities are poor at many sites in the study area and improvements would significantly enhance the experience of users.
- 68) **Secured access:** Securing improved access through the development of formal agreements serves to safeguard community use of school pitches and in some cases may provide sufficient security of tenure to allow external funding applications to be sought, to provide further enhancements. Given the relatively high proportion of pitches in Medway that are on school sites, Community Use Agreements with schools would help to ensure that existing use is secured and may also provide a means for developing additional external use.

Delivery partners

- 69) **Introduction:** A wide range of organisations will have a role in implementing the Playing Pitch Strategy.
- 70) **Medway Council:** The council is likely to play the lead role in co-ordinating the development of the larger, more strategic pitch and sports facility sites, in conjunction with other partners where appropriate.
- 71) **Parish councils:** Parish councils will continue to play a valuable role in providing and maintaining pitches and outdoor sports facilities in the rural parts of the study area.
- 72) **Schools:** Many schools in the study area already provide pitches and outdoor sports facilities from which local communities benefit and there will be further opportunities to extend and formalise community access to a range of provision on school sites.
- 73) **Sports organisations:** Local sports clubs are significant providers of pitches and outdoor sports facilities and will continue to do so. Some clubs may be interested in taking on delegated management responsibilities for pitch and changing facilities maintenance from Medway Council.
- 74) **Developers:** The developers of new housing and commercial projects in Medway can be required either to provide new pitches and outdoor sports facilities as part of an individual development, or to make a financial contribution towards the costs of such provision on site or elsewhere in the vicinity. The key principle is that the provision must meet the needs of the residents of the new homes, as opposed to rectifying any pre-existing deficiencies. This mechanism is likely to comprise a major component of most new provision in Medway.
- 75) **Partnership arrangements:** Partnership arrangements involving combinations of any of the above providers will help to share the costs of provision, management and maintenance of additional provision.

Action plan to meet current and future needs

- 76) A detailed action plan identifies the ways in which current and future deficiencies might be met and the partners who will have a role in providing, funding and managing new provision. It specifies what needs to be provided and where and proposes how best this might be achieved.
- 77) Because developer contributions are likely to provide the majority of funding for the additional pitches and outdoor sports facilities needed to serve development-related population increases in Medway, the study sets out a robust and defensible basis upon which to invite such contributions.
- 78) Because sport and physical activity is a rapidly changing environment, to ensure that the proposals in the study continue to address local needs and strategic priorities, the situation will be reviewed regularly. Assumptions about population growth will be tested regularly and projected requirements refined accordingly. There will therefore be annual reviews of progress towards action plan targets and a three-yearly review of the overall strategic approach.

I INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Ploszajski Lynch Consulting Ltd. was commissioned by Medway Council to produce a Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy for the study area, in the context of national policy and local sports development criteria.

The aims of the study

- 1.2 The aims of the strategy are to produce a comprehensive playing pitch study and assessment report for Medway Council, which includes:
- a) The development of policy options.
 - b) Key recommendations for future action planning.
 - c) The establishment of local standards for integration into the Local Development Framework strategic allocations Development Plan Document.
 - d) Identification of priorities and funding streams for investment.

The Scope of the study

- 1.3 The pitches facilities in the study were all those in the local authority area of the following types, including those not currently available for community use:
- a) Football (mini, youth, adult).
 - b) Cricket.
 - c) Rugby Union and League (mini, junior, adult).
 - d) Artificial Turf Pitches.
 - e) Synthetic athletics tracks.
 - f) Bowling greens.
 - g) Tennis courts.
 - h) Golf courses.
 - i) Multi-use games areas (MUGAs).

Methodology

- 1.4 ***Introduction:*** The strategy was prepared in accordance with ‘*Towards a level playing field: A guide to the production of playing pitch strategies*’ (Sport England, 2002) and the council’s brief of May 2012. It involved the following tasks.
- 1.5 ***The profile of the study area:*** The geographical, economic, physical and demographic context within which pitch and outdoor sports facility provision is made in Medway was identified, including the current and projected population, the local economy, deprivation and health indices.

- 1.6 ***Sport and physical activity:*** Levels of participation in sport and physical activity in general in the study area were examined, to better understand the likely local patterns of demand for playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities.
- 1.7 ***The Local strategic context:*** The implications of all relevant local strategic documents were identified to establish the link between pitches and outdoor sports facilities and wider agendas.
- 1.8 ***The wider strategic context:*** The implications of all relevant county, regional and national strategic documents with an impact on pitch and outdoor sports facilities provision were established.
- 1.9 ***Stakeholder consultation:*** The views of the following individuals and organisations were sought on the adequacy of current provision and their aspirations for the future.
 - a) All clubs using pitches and outdoor sports facilities.
 - b) All leagues in which local pitch sport teams participate.
 - c) All schools.
 - d) Town and parish councils.
 - e) The county governing bodies of the relevant sports.
 - f) Medway Council officers (leisure, planning, parks and education).
 - g) Neighbouring local authorities (to explore cross-boundary issues).
 - h) Sport England's regional office
- 1.10 ***Audit of facility supply:*** We undertook an audit of pitches and outdoor sports facilities in the study area that comprised:
 - a) ***Quantitative assessment:*** Identifying the number, type, location and community access arrangements for all pitches and outdoor sports facilities in Medway.
 - b) ***Qualitative assessment:*** Undertaking a non-technical visual quality assessment each pitch and outdoor sports facility in Medway via a site visit and the application of a standardised 'scoring' system.
 - c) ***Spatial distribution:*** The geographical spread of pitch and outdoor sports facilities provision was analysed by comparing per capita levels in five 'sub-areas' of Medway (Chatham, Rochester, Gillingham, Rainham and Strood and Rural).
- 1.11 ***Audit of pitch demand:*** Demand for pitches and outdoor sports facilities was identified by:

- a) **Teams data:** Compiling the details of all clubs and teams playing outdoor sport in Medway, including any that draw their membership from within Medway, but which play their ‘home’ fixtures elsewhere.
 - b) **Leagues information:** Establishing the details of competitions, including the frequency and timing of fixtures.
- 1.12 **Applying the Playing Pitch Model:** To establish the balance between supply and demand for pitches, we applied Sport England’s Playing Pitch Model (PPM), which involved the following:
- a) **Stage one - Identifying teams/team equivalents:** The full list of all clubs and teams in the study area were identified and their match and training needs were converted into team equivalents.
 - b) **Stage two - Calculating home games per team per week:** These figures were identified from the above data.
 - c) **Stage three - Assessing total home games per week:** These were calculated from the above outputs.
 - d) **Stage four - Establishing temporal demand for games:** This was identified from the regular timings of matches, to identify the periods of peak demand.
 - e) **Stage five - Defining pitches used on each day:** This was calculated by applying the peak demand.
 - f) **Stage six - Establishing the number of pitches available for each sport:** All pitches for each sport in the study area were identified and their carrying capacity at the peak period was calculated by assessing qualitative data.
 - g) **Stage seven - Identifying the balance:** This was done by comparing data generated from the previous six stages.
 - h) **Stage eight - Identifying latent demand:** A range of factors was considered to establish whether the ‘raw’ outputs of the PPM needed to be refined to take account of local circumstances.
- 1.13 **Setting provision standards:** Proposed local standards of playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities provision were devised, based upon:
- a) **Quantitative standards:** The outputs from the PPM were applied to generate per capita standards for each type of pitch. Benchmarked per capita standards were applied for other forms of outdoor sports facility.
 - b) **Qualitative standards:** The qualitative standards were based upon the definitions for each aspect of each typology, used in the qualitative audit. The full definitions are listed in the study appendix, but the council’s policy position is to seek in the first instance to achieve at least an ‘average’ rating for all sites.

- c) **Accessibility standards:** The travel times were identified on the basis of local survey results to establish the journey time of 75% - 80% of users of each typology. Mode of travel was specified on the basis of local survey results indicating travel mode preferences (i.e. reflecting current behavioural patterns).
- 1.14 **Applying provision standards:** The standards were applied to establish the adequacy of current and future provision.
- a) **Current provision:** The extent to which residents are served or under-provided in relation to each type of pitch and outdoor sports facility was calculated by applying the respective quantitative standards at both a Medway-wide and sub-area level.
- b) **Future provision:** This has been modelled based upon population projections for the study area indicating an anticipated population of 280,000 by 2028, an increase of 23,300 people, or 8.3% compared with the current figure.
- 1.15 **Policy options:** Policy options were identified for meeting the shortfalls in provision.
- 1.16 **Action plan:** An action plan was produced to identify how, where and by whom any shortfalls will be met, including the identification of priorities for section 106 agreements/Community Infrastructure Levy and identification of other potential funding streams.



Frindsbury Cricket Club

II THE PROFILE OF THE STUDY AREA

Introduction

- 2.1 **Introduction:** This section identifies the local context within which playing pitch provision is made in Medway. It covers the following:
- a) Background.
 - b) Population.
 - c) The local economy.
 - d) Deprivation indices.
 - e) Health indices.
 - f) Implications for sports facilities and open space provision.

Background

- 2.2 The area administered by Medway Council is in north Kent covers 192sq.km and is made up of five towns (Chatham, Gillingham, Rochester, Strood and Rainham), the extensive rural areas on the Hoo Peninsula and the area of Cuxton and Halling to the west of the M2. It has a growing population currently numbering just over a quarter of a million people. The population density in the area is 1,337 people per sq.km, which is more than three times higher than the average figure for the South-East and England as a whole.
- 2.3 In recent years, as part of the Thames Gateway regeneration area, Medway has undergone extensive regeneration particularly in the former derelict riverside areas of Chatham and Gillingham which have been transformed into thriving business, higher and further education and residential communities. At the same time it has retained its naval and dockyard character by finding new uses for its historic buildings alongside the new development.
- 2.4 Medway is now looking to continue its regeneration along the riverside, in the town centres and through the only new settlement in the Thames Gateway at Lodge Hill, Chattenden, which will accommodate 5,000 homes.
- 2.5 Medway has a diverse natural environment ranging from the marshlands and wetlands of the Hoo Peninsula to the downland in the south and west of the area, including eight nationally and internationally important designated nature conservation areas and three parks with Green Flag status.

Population

- 2.6 **Age structure:** According to the 2011 Census, Medway has a population of 263,900 (ONS, 2012). The age structure is tabulated below, with comparator figures for the South-East and England as a whole. The figures show that the area has a relatively youthful age structure compared with the region and country as a whole, with a significantly higher proportion of under 45's.

<i>Age</i>	<i>Medway</i>	<i>Medway %</i>	<i>South-East %</i>	<i>England %</i>
0-14	50,000	18.9%	17.8%	17.6%
15-24	38,000	14.4%	12.5%	13.3%
25-44	71,800	27.2%	26.5%	27.2%
45-64	67,000	25.4%	26.1%	25.4%
65+	37,100	14.1%	17.1%	16.5%
Total	263,900	100%	100%	100%

Source: 2011 Census (ONS, 2012)

- 2.7 **Ethnicity:** Based upon the most recent available data, the study area has a predominantly white population. The individual classifications are as follows:

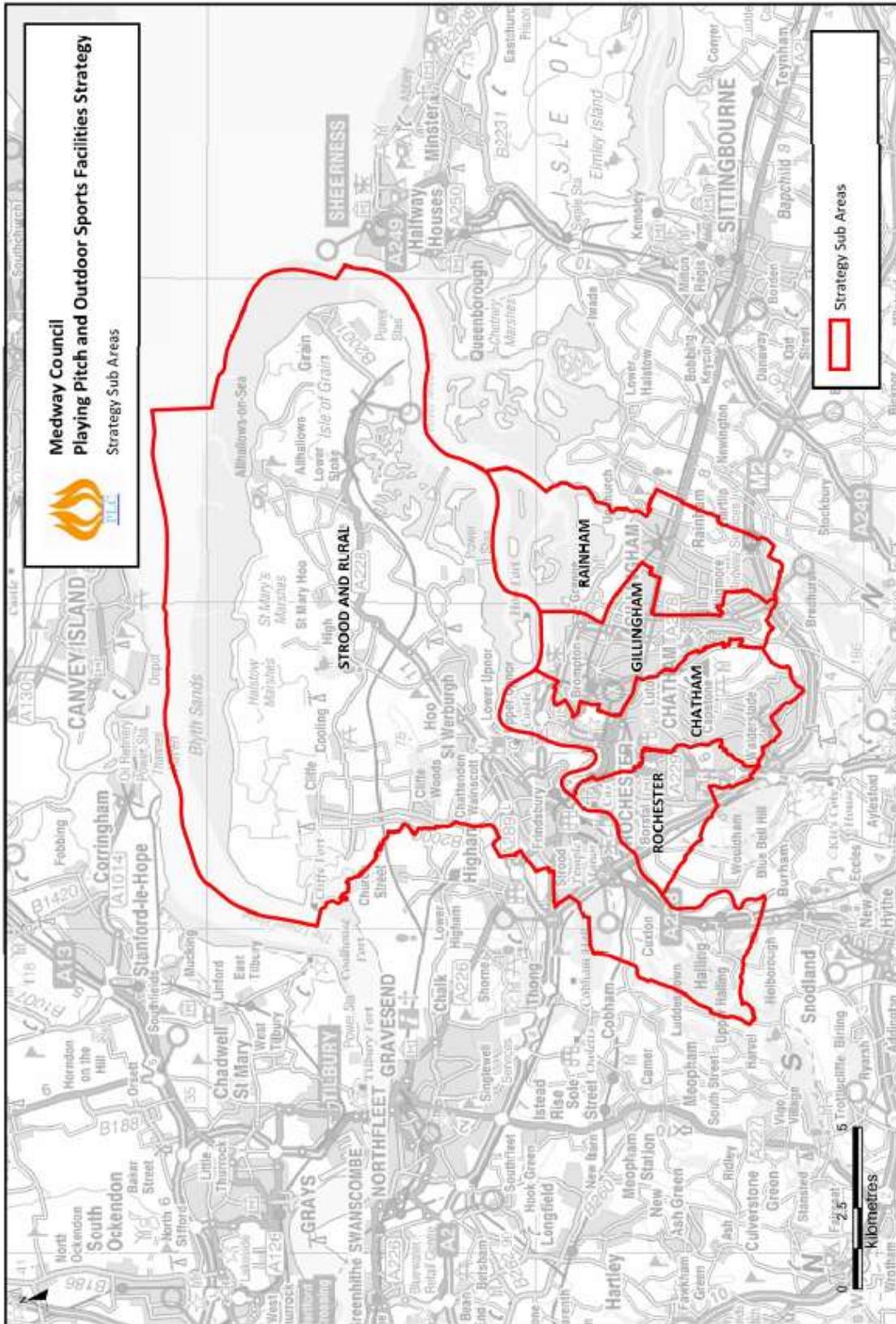
<i>Group</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>
White	230,900	90.6%
Asian	10,300	4.0%
Black	5,300	2.1%
Mixed	4,300	1.7%
Other ethnic	3,900	1.5%

Source: Medway Local Profile (ONS, 2012)

- 2.8 **Sub-areas:** To enable analysis to be undertaken at a local level, five sub-areas of Medway have been identified. The details of the sub-areas are set out below, along with the wards incorporated in each. A map is contained overleaf:

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Wards</i>	<i>Population</i>
Chatham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chatham Central • Lordswood and Capstone • Luton and Wayfield • Princes Park • Riverside • Walderslade 	69,851
Gillingham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gillingham North • Gillingham South • Hempstead and Wigmore • Twydall • Watling 	64,165
Rainham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rainham Central • Rainham North • Rainham South 	34,891
Rochester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rochester East • Rochester South and Horsted • Rochester West 	33,936
Strood and Rural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cuxton and Halling • Peninsula • Strood Rural • Strood North • Strood South 	61,057

Source: ONS, Local Area Statistics, mid-2010 estimates (2011).



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2012.

2.9 **Population growth:** The Office of National Statistics has published population projections to mid-2028, which are trend-based projections applying observed levels over the past five years. The projections for Medway show an anticipated population of 280,000 by mid-2028, an increase of 16,100 people, or 6.1% compared with the current population.

The local economy

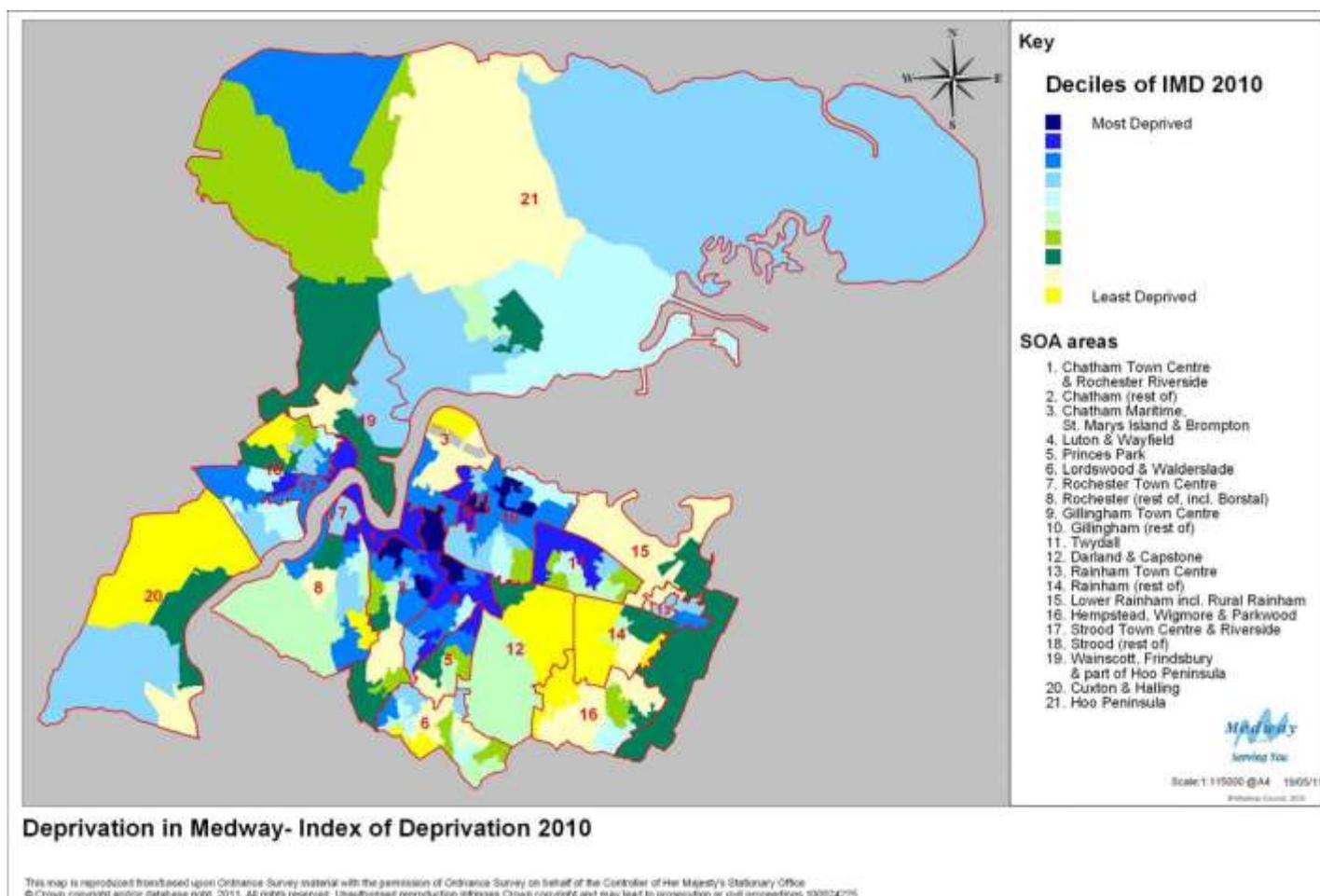
- 2.10 Medway benefits from considerable investment arising from its strategic location within the Thames Gateway. A major transformation has taken place around the former Pembroke naval buildings in Chatham creating the Medway Campus, home to three universities and Mid Kent College.
- 2.11 A new sustainable community has been created in Chatham Maritime where £400 million of public and private investment has created a showpiece living and working environment attracting large corporate names. Recent infrastructure investment includes the Medway Tunnel and the High Speed Rail Link from the Channel Tunnel to London. This has resulted in a diversification of the economic base towards creative industries, financial and business services, education and environmental and energy technologies, adding to Medway's manufacturing strengths. Important energy and port facilities are located on the Hoo Peninsula.
- 2.12 External transport links are excellent and improving and the new dynamic bus facility together with investment in a quality public transport network will improve the bus services within Medway. However there are issues around bus services, public transport integration, accessibility, particularly on the Hoo Peninsula and traffic congestion.
- 2.13 Whilst skill levels are growing significantly faster than the regional and national averages. However, Medway remains a relatively low wage area with high numbers of people commuting out to work and skill shortages particularly at NVQ3 and 4 levels. The business start up rate remains well below the regional and national rates.

Health indices

- 2.14 The Department of Health's '*Health Profile for Medway*' (2011) contains the following details on local health indices:
- a) Male life expectancy in Medway is 77.3 years, with female life expectancy 81.6 years, in both cases well above the respective national averages. However, there is clear evidence of health inequality, with the average life expectancy varying by 9.7 years for men and 3.3 years for women between the most deprived and least deprived areas.
 - b) 30.0% of the local adult population is classified as being obese, which is well above the national average of 24.2% and close to the highest level for any local authority area in the country.
 - c) 20.4% of local children in school year six are classified as being obese, which is above the national average of 18.7%. The percentage of school age children in the study area who are physically active (at least three hours of PE and sport per week) is 48.7%, below the national average of 55.1%.
 - d) The proportion of residents who smoke is 22.2%, compared with 21.2% nationally.

Deprivation indices

2.15 Overall Medway is not a deprived area being ranked the 150th most deprived local authority area out of 354 in England, as measured by the Government's Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD). However, it has higher levels of deprivation than neighbouring local authorities and at ward level it has both some of the most affluent and some of the most deprived areas in the country. 9.4% of the population (24,130 people) lives in wards that are amongst the 20% most deprived on a national basis. A map showing variations is below.



The implications of the local context

2.16 The implications for playing pitch and outdoor sports facility provision in Medway are as follows:

- a) The relatively youthful population structure is likely to inflate relative demand in the study area for the sports that use playing pitches.
- b) The ethnicity of 90.6% of the population is classified as 'White'. Black and minority ethnic groups traditionally have lower rates of involvement in physical activity, so demand levels in a predominantly White population should normally generate above average demand.



Church Street MUGA, Cliffe

- c) Population growth of 16,100 people (a 6.1% increase) by 2028 will inflate demand for pitches and outdoor sports facilities. Existing playing fields may come under threat of development to accommodate new housing. However, developer contributions will provide an opportunity to fund provision that will demonstrably meet the needs of the new residents.
- d) The relatively low wage local economy will limit the amount of disposable income available for discretionary spending on activities such as sport and should therefore decrease demand levels.
- e) Poor health indices locally underline the importance of ensuring access to sports facilities including pitches, as part of a wider strategy to get the local population more physically active.
- f) Although the deprivation indices for Medway as a whole are around the national average, there are significant variations at a more local level. Since deprivation is associated with lower rates for participation in sport and physical activity, patterns of demand are likely to vary within the study area as a whole.

III. SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY IN MEDWAY

Introduction

- 3.1 This section examines participation in sport and physical activity in Medway, to better understand the likely patterns of background demand for playing pitches in the study area. The data is drawn from a number of sources, principally Sport England surveys and research. The sources examined are as follows:
- a) The ‘Active People’ surveys.
 - b) Market Segmentation data.
- 3.2 To place the local results in context, the data has been assessed against the national and regional (South-East) averages provide a wider geographical perspective against which to track local trends.

Active People

- 3.3 **Introduction:** The ‘Active People’ survey was commissioned by Sport England. The survey is the largest study of patterns of adult (people aged over 16) involvement in sport and physical activity ever undertaken and involved telephone interviews with a representative sample of between 500 and 1,000 residents of each local authority district in the country. Five surveys have been undertaken to date, which has enabled trends to be tracked over a seven year period. The following Key Performance Indicators (KPI’s) are measured and the results for each are tabulated below:
- a) **Overall participation:** This is defined as ‘taking part on at least three days a week in moderate intensity sport and active recreation (at least twelve days in the last four weeks) for at least 30 minutes continuously in any one session’.
 - b) **Volunteering:** This is defined as ‘volunteering to support sport for at least one hour a week’.
 - c) **Club membership:** This is defined as ‘being a member of a club particularly so that you can participate in sport or recreational activity in the last four weeks’.
 - d) **Receiving tuition:** This is defined as ‘having received tuition from an instructor or coach to improve your performance in any sport or recreational activity in the last twelve months’.
 - e) **Organised Competition:** This is defined as ‘having taken part in any organised competition in any sport or recreational activity in the last twelve months’.
 - f) **Satisfaction:** This is defined as ‘the percentage of adults who are very or fairly satisfied with sports provision in their local area’.
 - g) **Organised sport:** This is defined as ‘the percentage of adults who have done at least one of the following:
 - Received tuition in the last twelve months.

- Taken part in organised competition in the last twelve months.
- Been a member of a club to play sport’.

h) **Participation in individual sports:** This is defined as ‘the percentage of adults who have participated at least once in a sport in the preceding four weeks’.

3.4 **Overall participation:** Overall rates of regular adult participation in sport and physical activity (at least one session of 30 minutes of moderate intensity exercise per week) show that there has been a significant decrease in participation rates in Medway over the survey period and rates remain well below the regional and national figures.

<i>Area</i>	<i>2007/8</i>	<i>2008/9</i>	<i>2009/10</i>	<i>2010/11</i>
Medway	35.0%	29.4%	33.0%	23.7%
South-East	38.0%	36.9%	37.0%	35.7%
England	35.8%	35.7%	35.3%	34.8%

3.5 **Volunteering:** Rates of volunteer support for sport in Medway have increased during the survey period, but remain well below the regional and national averages:

<i>Area</i>	<i>2005/6</i>	<i>2007/8</i>	<i>2008/9</i>	<i>2009/10</i>	<i>2010/11</i>
Medway	3.6%	5.2%	4.6%	3.3%	5.6%
South-East	5.4%	5.3%	5.0%	4.8%	7.6%
England	5.4%	4.9%	4.7%	4.5%	7.3%

3.6 **Sports club membership:** In line with national and regional trends, club membership rates for Medway have decreased during the survey period and in the most recent survey remain well below the regional and national averages:

<i>Area</i>	<i>2005/6</i>	<i>2007/8</i>	<i>2008/9</i>	<i>2009/10</i>	<i>2010/11</i>
Medway	22.0%	22.5%	19.3%	22.7%	19.9%
South-East	27.6%	27.5%	26.1%	26.2%	25.7%
England	25.1%	24.7%	24.1%	23.9%	23.2%

3.7 **Coaching:** The proportion of adults receiving coaching in Medway has fallen over the survey period to one of the lowest levels in the country:

<i>Area</i>	<i>2005/6</i>	<i>2007/8</i>	<i>2008/9</i>	<i>2009/10</i>	<i>2010/11</i>
Medway	17.9%	16.9%	14.0%	14.7%	8.6%
South-East	20.7%	20.6%	19.5%	19.3%	18.0%
England	18.0%	18.1%	17.5%	17.5%	16.2%

3.8 **Organised competition:** The proportion of adults involved in organised sports competitions in the previous twelve months has decreased over the survey period and it remains well below the regional and national averages:

<i>Area</i>	<i>2005/6</i>	<i>2007/8</i>	<i>2008/9</i>	<i>2009/10</i>	<i>2010/11</i>
Medway	14.6%	14.9%	11.8%	12.6%	9.8%
South-East	17.1%	16.3%	16.0%	15.7%	16.2%
England	14.8%	14.6%	14.4%	14.4%	14.3%

- 3.9 ***Involvement in organised sport:*** The proportion of adults who are either members of a sports club, received coaching and tuition or played organised competitive sport is well below the regional and national averages.

<i>Area</i>	<i>2005/6</i>	<i>2007/8</i>	<i>2008/9</i>	<i>2009/10</i>	<i>2010/11</i>
Medway	33.9%	37.1%	32.4%	33.4%	26.7%
South-East	40.4%	40.5%	39.1%	39.1%	38.9%
England	37.0%	37.0%	36.1%	36.3%	35.5%

- 3.10 ***Satisfaction with local provision:*** Levels of satisfaction with local sports provision show that the rates for Medway have increased over the four survey periods in which the question was included, to above the regional and national averages.

<i>Area</i>	<i>2005/6</i>	<i>2007/8</i>	<i>2008/9</i>	<i>2009/10</i>
Medway	68.6%	64.3%	72.1%	71.1%
South-East	71.8%	69.9%	71.2%	71.0%
England	69.5%	66.6%	68.4%	69.0%

- 3.11 ***Participation in individual sports:*** The percentage of the adult population of Medway that participated in individual outdoor sports in the four weeks preceding the 'Active People' survey was as follows:

<i>Sport</i>	<i>Medway %</i>	<i>England %</i>
Athletics	6.21%	6.39%
Bowls	1.10%	1.01%
Cricket	1.02%	1.02%
Football	7.19%	7.44%
Golf	3.71%	3.52%
Hockey	0.40%	0.37%
Rugby	0.76%	0.74%
Tennis	2.30%	2.37%

Market segmentation data

- 3.12 ***Introduction:*** Sport England has identified 19 adult sporting market segments, to better understand specific motivations and barriers to doing sport and physical activity. The data provides a useful way of anticipating demand for activities, based upon the extent to which segments are represented in the local population.

- 3.13 The proportion of the Medway population in each market segment is tabulated below, with the South-East and national figures for comparison:

<i>Market segment</i>	<i>Medway %</i>	<i>South-East %</i>	<i>England %</i>
Competitive male urbanites	4.3%	6.0%	4.9%
Sports team drinkers	5.0%	3.9%	5.4%
Fitness class friends	3.4%	6.1%	4.7%
Supportive singles	4.6%	3.1%	4.3%
Career focused females	3.7%	5.2%	4.5%
Settling down males	8.6%	11.4%	8.8%
Stay at home mums	4.9%	6.3%	4.4%
Middle England mums	8.1%	4.6%	4.9%

<i>Market segment</i>	<i>Medway %</i>	<i>South-East %</i>	<i>England %</i>
Pub league team mates	5.4%	3.5%	5.9%
Stretched single mums	3.5%	2.7%	3.7%
Comfortable mid-life males	11.2%	9.7%	8.6%
Empty nest career ladies	5.6%	6.8%	6.1%
Early retirement couples	8.1%	7.3%	6.8%
Older working women	4.8%	2.8%	4.9%
Local 'old boys'	3.6%	2.4%	3.7%
Later life ladies	1.7%	1.3%	2.1%
Comfortable retired couples	1.7%	6.5%	4.2%
Twilight years gents	4.4%	3.5%	4.0%
Retirement home singles	7.6%	6.8%	8.0%

3.14 **'Dominant segments'**: The 'dominant' market segments with more than 7% of the local population are detailed below. The characteristics of these groups and the types of activity that appeal most to them are as follows:

<i>Segment name</i>	<i>Characteristics</i>	<i>Activities that appeal</i>
Settling down males	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age 26-45 • Married • Owner-occupied • Employed full-time • 50% have children • Social class ABC1 • 32% do 3x30 minutes exercise per week • 27% do no exercise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canoeing • Skiing • Cricket • Golf • Cycling • Squash • Football
Middle England mums	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age 26-45 • Married • Owner-occupied • Employed part-time/at home • Children • Social class C1C2D • 21% do 3x30 minutes exercise per week • 48% do no exercise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swimming • Walking • Dance exercise • Aqua aerobics • Body pump • Ice skating
Comfortable mid-life males	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age 36-65 • Married • Owner-occupied • Employed full-time • 50% have children • Social class ABC1 • 26% do 3x30 minutes exercise per week • 39% do no exercise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sailing • Gym • Football • Jogging • Badminton • Golf • Cycling • Cricket
Early retirement couples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age 56-65 • Married • Owner-occupied • Retired/employed full-time • No dependent children • Social class ABC1 • 19% do 3x30 minutes exercise per week • 54% do no exercise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swimming • Sailing • Walking • Golf • Aqua aerobics • Shooting • Bowls • Fishing

<i>Segment name</i>	<i>Characteristics</i>	<i>Activities that appeal</i>
Retirement home singles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age 65+ • Single • Owner occupied and council • Retired • No dependent children • DE • 5% do 3x30 minutes exercise per week • 86% do no exercise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking • Bowls • Dancing • Gentle exercise



A good quality changing facility at Luton Recreation Ground

The implications of local participation and demand patterns

3.15 The implications for playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities are as follows:

- a) Overall participation rates in Medway are well below the regional and national averages, suggesting that demand for sports facilities locally will be commensurately lower locally.
- b) However, outdoor sports participation rates locally are for the most part marginally higher than the national average
- c) Levels of satisfaction with local sports provision have increased over the survey period and now stand above the regional and national averages. This implies that there the quantity and quality of local provision is judged by participants to meet their needs.
- d) The Market Segmentation data suggests that demand for outdoor sports is likely to be higher than the national average, given the relatively large proportion of Medway residents from market segments which traditionally favour football, cricket, golf and bowls.

IV. THE LOCAL STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Introduction

- 4.1 This section summarises the main findings of all local strategies with the potential to impact on playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities provision and identifies their implications.

Medway Council Strategic Priorities

- 4.2 The council has five strategic priorities:
- a) A safe, clean and green environment.
 - b) Children and young people having the best start in life.
 - c) Adults maintaining their independence and live healthy lives.
 - d) Everybody travelling easily and safely around Medway.
 - e) Everyone benefitting from the area's regeneration.

Medway Council Plan

- 4.3 *'The Medway Council Plan 2012-2013'* (2012) is the council's high-level, strategic business plan that sets out the council's priorities, outcomes, objectives and key actions. The following elements are of relevance to playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities provision, where the council will:
- a) Work with local people to maintain parks and open spaces that are enjoyed by all.
 - b) Promote and encourage healthy lifestyles for children and young people, reducing health inequalities and improving quality of life for people with special educational needs.
 - c) Promote and encourage healthy lifestyles for adults.
 - d) Promote Medway as a destination for culture, heritage, sport and tourism

Sustainable Community Strategy

- 4.4 ***Introduction:*** The *'Sustainable Community Strategy 2010 - 2026: City of Medway - Rich Heritage, Great Future'* (2010) sets the long-term vision and key ambitions for Medway and the priorities to deliver that vision. The Medway Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) led the development of the strategy in consultation with the community and partner agencies.
- 4.5 ***Ambitions:*** The Strategy has the following ambitions:
- a) Medway to have a thriving, diverse and sustainable economy matched by an appropriately skilled workforce and supported by a higher and further education centre of excellence.

- b) Every child to have a good start in life.
- c) Medway residents to enjoy good health, well being and care.
- d) Medway to have a safe and high quality environment.
- e) Medway to be a place where people value one another, play an active part and have pride in their community and Medway as a whole.
- f) Medway to be recognised as a destination for culture, heritage, sport and tourism.

4.6 **Principles:** The Strategy is based upon the following principles:

- a) **Sustainability:** Will our actions work for tomorrow as well as today?
- b) **Narrowing the gap:** Will our actions contribute to improving the lives of everyone, so reducing the gap between deprived and more affluent areas?
- c) **Fairness:** Do our actions take account of all sections of society, ensuring that everybody benefits from the regeneration of Medway?
- d) **Self-help:** Will our actions encourage people to take responsibility themselves to make things better?

4.7 **Actions:** The following actions proposed in the Strategy will impact upon playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities provision:

- a) Improve access to and uptake of active recreation across all age groups by working with children's centres, schools and community groups.
- b) Strengthen the protection and conservation of open spaces.
- c) Encourage community engagement in conserving and developing open space through for example the development of 'friends' groups.
- d) Apply green infrastructure planning in connecting people and places.
- e) Promote the benefits of physical activity and sport through marketing campaigns targeting particularly those least likely to participate.

Cultural Strategy

4.8 **Introduction:** 'The Medway Cultural Strategy 2009 - 2014' (2009) sets out the priorities for cultural provision (including playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities provision) in Medway.

4.9 **Priorities:** The Strategy has four priorities:

- a) **Stewardship:** Preserve and enhance Medway's heritage, green spaces and public realm for the enjoyment and benefit of current and future generations.

- b) **Engagement:** Increase active engagement and satisfaction with cultural activities to increase quality of life, providing the essential place-making for the significant regeneration that is taking place in Medway.
- c) **Contributing to Economic Prosperity:** Harness and foster the creative talent within Medway and maximise the opportunities the universities and further education, creative sector and cultural offer create for Medway's economy.
- d) **Health and Wellbeing:** Increase active participation to address obesity, mental health and spiritual health, promoting active minds, bodies and lifestyles.

4.10 **Actions:** The following actions are of particular relevance to playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities provision:

- a) Rolling out the Medway Gets Active campaign, ensuring that the value of participation message to the promotion of activities and opportunities linked to the 2012 Olympics and beyond.
- b) Supporting the campaign by NHS Medway to promote the benefits of physical activity and sport in addressing health improvement in 2010.
- c) Developing a programme of events and sporting activities to encourage local people to take up sporting activities, with a target to increase adult participation rates by 8% and children's by 10% by 2014.
- d) Working with partners to develop marketing campaigns that will:
 - Raise awareness, specifically targeting sections of Medway where participation levels are known to be low and the greatest impact can be achieved.
 - Promote the benefit of physical activity and sport in addressing health improvement.

Development Plan

4.11 **Introduction:** The Development Plan for Medway currently comprises Development Plan policies from a number of plans, including the *Medway Local Plan* (2003). These 'saved' policies will gradually be replaced by the Medway Local Development Framework, but for the moment they provide the policy basis for controlling development in Medway. Policies of relevance to playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities are set out below.

4.12 **Policy L1 - Existing leisure facilities:** 'In order to maintain existing levels of provision, development which would result in the loss of leisure facilities will not be permitted unless it can be shown:

- a) That similar or better replacement is made elsewhere within the same catchment area, which is well located in relation to the primary or secondary road network and is readily accessible by public transport, pedestrians and cyclists; or

- b) That there is no longer a need for the facility and it is unsuitable for conversion to an alternative leisure use; or
- c) That the site is allocated for other development in the local plan’.

4.13 **Policy L3 - Protection of open space:** ‘Development which would involve the loss of existing formal open space, informal open space, allotments or amenity land will not be permitted unless:

- a) Sports and recreation facilities can best be implemented, or retained and enhanced through redevelopment of a small part of the site; or
- b) Alternative open space provision can be made within the same catchment area and is acceptable in terms of amenity value; or
- c) In the case of outdoor sports and children’s play space provision, there is an excess of such provision in the area (measured against the NPFA standard of 2.4 hectares per 1,000 population) and such open space neither contributes to, nor has the potential to contribute to, informal leisure, open space or local environmental amenity provision; or
- d) In the case of educational establishments, the development is required for educational purposes and adequate areas for outdoor sports can be retained or provided elsewhere within the vicinity; or
- e) The site is allocated for other development in the local plan’.

4.14 **Policy L7 - New playing fields:** ‘The following sites, as defined on the proposals map, are identified for the provision of new playing fields. Development which would prejudice these proposals will not be permitted:

- a) Castlemaine Avenue.
- b) Chapel Lane, Hempstead.
- c) Hoo Road, Wainscott’.

4.15 **Policy L8 - Dual use of recreational facilities:** ‘Dual-use of private and educational sports facilities will be sought, particularly in areas where a deficiency of open space or demand for sports facilities exists’.

4.16 **Policy L12 - Golf courses:** ‘Proposals for golf courses and associated facilities will be permitted subject to the following criteria:

- a) It is compatible with the scale and character of the local landscape and does not adversely affect the countryside and natural environment; and
- b) It does not result in the irreversible loss of the best and most versatile agricultural land; and
- c) It is well located in relation to the highway and public transport network; and

- d) It does not prejudice the amenity of local residents or other users of the countryside, and protects or satisfactorily provides for existing public rights of way; and
- e) It does not include functionally unrelated ancillary development.

Open Space Study

4.17 **Introduction:** ‘The Medway Open Space Study’ (2012) comprises an evaluation of open space provision in Medway, including playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities and proposes standards of provision. It will ultimately form part of the evidence base underpinning the emerging Local Development Framework for Medway and comprises a helpful preliminary assessment of the adequacy of provision of playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities locally. However, there are some differences between the findings of the open space and playing pitch studies, due to their adherence to the respective recommended methodologies for each type of assessment. The differences can be summarised as follows:

- a) **Open space study:** The method of assessment primarily focuses on the spatial nature of provision, in terms of the overall space required per capita, rather than focusing on the needs of particular facility types. It also includes only publicly accessible facilities.
- b) **Playing pitch study:** The method of assessment concentrates on the number of facilities of each particular type and assesses these in relation to the specific demand for them. It also includes all facilities, regardless of their accessibility.

4.18 **Playing pitches:** The quantitative audit identified the following provision by sub-area in Medway:

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Pitches (Ha)</i>	<i>Ha per 1,000</i>
Chatham	66,085	19.00ha	0.29ha
Gillingham	62,190	15.76ha	0.25ha
Rainham	34,027	3.00ha	0.09ha
Rochester	32,416	12.80ha	0.39ha
Strood and Rural	60,858	17.32ha	0.28ha
<i>Medway</i>	<i>255,576</i>	<i>67.88ha</i>	<i>0.27ha</i>

4.19 The analysis of pitch provision concluded that:

- a) **Quantity:** The level of provision of Medway (and each individual sub-area) is significantly below the Fields in Trust National Benchmark figure of 1.2ha per 1,000 people.
- b) **Quality:** 41% of football pitches were rated as ‘average’ or ‘poor’ quality, but conversely 75% of cricket pitches and 67% of rugby pitches were rated as ‘excellent’ or ‘good’.

4.20 **Synthetic turf pitches:** The quantitative audit identified the following provision by sub-area in Medway. The condition of all was judged to be ‘good’ quality:

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>No. pitches</i>	<i>Pitches/person</i>
Chatham	66,085	3	1: 22,028
Gillingham	62,190	1	1: 62,190
Rainham	34,027	0	-
Rochester	32,416	4	1: 8,104
Strood and Rural	60,858	1	1: 60,858
Medway	255,576	9	1: 28,397

4.21 **Tennis courts:** The quantitative audit identified the following provision by sub-area in Medway. The condition of most courts was judged to be ‘good’ quality:

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>No. courts</i>	<i>Courts/person</i>
Chatham	66,085	11	1: 6,007
Gillingham	62,190	10	1: 6,219
Rainham	34,027	0	-
Rochester	32,416	8	1: 4,052
Strood and Rural	60,858	18	1: 3,381
Medway	255,576	47	1: 5,437

4.22 **Bowling greens:** The quantitative audit identified the following provision by sub-area in Medway. The condition of most greens was judged to be ‘good’ quality:

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>No. greens</i>	<i>Greens/person</i>
Chatham	66,085	2	1: 33,042
Gillingham	62,190	2	1: 31,095
Rainham	34,027	0	-
Rochester	32,416	2	1: 16,208
Strood and Rural	60,858	3	1: 20,286
Medway	255,576	9	1: 28,397

4.23 **Golf courses:** The study notes that there are three 18-hole golf courses in Medway, comprising 0.21 holes per 1,000 people, compared with the national average of 0.68 holes per 1,000.



Deangate Ridge Golf Course

4.24 **Proposed standard of provision:** A collective standard for pitches and outdoor sports facilities (excluding golf courses) of 0.50ha per 1,000 people is proposed, with a quality standard equivalent to ‘good’ for all pitches, with the whole population within 15 minutes walk of all forms of grass pitch and outdoor sports facility, apart from synthetic turf pitches for which the standard is 20 minutes walk.

4.25 **Current and future deficiencies:** On the basis of applying the above standard, the following current (2011) and future (2028) deficiencies were identified:

a) **Current deficiencies:**

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Current (Ha)</i>	<i>Required (Ha)</i>	<i>Shortfall (Ha)</i>
Chatham	20.72ha	33.04ha	12.32ha
Gillingham	17.23ha	31.10ha	13.87ha
Rainham	3.00ha	17.01ha	14.01ha
Rochester	15.82ha	16.21ha	0.39ha
Strood and Rural	19.44ha	30.43ha	10.99ha
Medway	76.22ha	127.79ha	51.57ha

b) **Future deficiencies:**

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Current (Ha)</i>	<i>Required (Ha)</i>	<i>Shortfall (Ha)</i>
Chatham	20.72ha	37.11ha	16.39ha
Gillingham	17.23ha	31.04ha	13.81ha
Rainham	3.00ha	16.34ha	13.34ha
Rochester	15.82ha	16.27ha	0.45ha
Strood and Rural	19.44ha	38.32ha	18.88ha
Medway	76.22ha	139.08ha	62.86ha

Wildlife, Countryside and Open Space Strategy

4.26 **Introduction:** The Council’s ‘Wildlife, Countryside and Open Space Strategy’ (2008) incorporates the findings of separate assessments for individual typologies and covers the period to 2016.

4.27 **Strategy outcomes:** The Strategy outcomes are as follows:

- a) More high quality facilities.
- b) Improved monitoring and management.
- c) Prioritised investments.
- d) Improved protection/conservation.
- e) More open spaces contributing directly to regeneration.
- f) Great celebration and engagement.

4.28 **Outdoor sports provision:** Outdoor sports provision comprises 330ha (about 20%) of the open space network.

- a) By 2012, there will be 112ha shortfall in overall outdoor sports provision.
- b) Based on a standard of one synthetic pitch per 45,000 people, there is a current shortfall of one pitch, rising to 2 by 2016.
- c) The majority of residents live within the recommended 1.2km of an outdoor sports facility.
- d) There is a shortfall of 17 tennis courts, projected to rise to 22 by 2016.

The implications for playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities provision

4.29 The local strategic context in Medway influences the overall framework within which the playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities study will be developed. In particular:

- a) The Medway Council Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy both include priorities to promote and encourage healthy lifestyles and the provision of playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities will support such initiatives.
- b) The Cultural Strategy contains the target to increase adult participation rates by 8% and children's by 10% by 2014, which if achieved will have significant implications on demand for playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities.
- c) The Development Plan contains policies that are generally supportive of new and improved playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities and also the protection of existing provision.
- d) The Open Space Study provides a helpful starting point for a more detailed analysis of playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities, by identifying and applying a generic standard of provision to establish existing and future shortfalls.

V. THE WIDER STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Introduction

- 5.1 This section summarises the main findings of the key national and county strategies and those of neighbouring local authorities which impact upon of sports facilities and open space assessments and identifies their implications.

National Planning Policy Framework

- 5.2 **Introduction:** In March 2012, the Government published the ‘*National Planning Policy Statement*’ (2012), setting out its economic, environmental and social planning policies for England. Taken together, these policies articulate the Government’s vision of sustainable development, which should be interpreted and applied locally to meet local aspirations.
- 5.3 **Sustainable development:** ‘The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. Sustainable development means development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs’.
- 5.4 **Core planning principles:** Planning policies and decisions should:
- a) ‘Be genuinely plan-led, with succinct Local Plans setting out a positive long-term vision for an area. These plans should be kept up to date and should provide a practical framework within which decisions on planning applications can be made with a high degree of certainty and efficiency’.
 - b) ‘In considering the future use of land, take account of its environmental quality or potential quality regardless of its previous or existing use’.
 - c) ‘Seek to protect and enhance environmental and heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance. Where practical and consistent with other objectives, allocations of land for development should prefer land of lesser environmental value’.
 - d) ‘Make effective use of land, promote mixed use developments that create more vibrant places, and encourage multiple benefits from the use of land in urban and rural areas, recognising that some open land can perform many functions (such as for wildlife, recreation, flood risk mitigation, carbon storage, or food production)’.
 - e) ‘Actively manage patterns of growth to make the fullest use of public transport, walking and cycling, and focus significant development in locations which are or can be made sustainable’.
- 5.5 **Core planning principles:** Planning policies and decisions should:
- a) ‘Take account of and support local strategies to improve health and wellbeing for all’.

- b) ‘Always seek to secure a good standard of amenity for existing and future occupants of land and buildings’.
- 5.6 **Health and well-being:** ‘Local planning authorities should work with public health leads and health organisations to understand and take account of the health status and needs of the local population, including expected future changes, and any information about relevant barriers to improving health and well-being’.
- 5.7 **Open space, sports and recreational facilities:** ‘Access to good quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities. The planning system has a role in helping to create an environment where activities are made easier and public health can be improved. Planning policies should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. The information gained from this assessment of needs and opportunities should be used to set locally derived standards for the provision of open space, sports and recreational facilities. Planning policies should protect and enhance rights of way and access’.
- 5.8 ‘Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:
- a) An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
- b) The need for and benefits of the development clearly outweigh the loss’.

Sport England

- 5.9 **Introduction:** The ‘*Sport England Strategy 2012 - 2017*’ sets out national sports policy objectives for the next five years.
- 5.10 **Overall aims:** In 2017, five years after the Olympic Games, we want to have transformed sport in England so that sport becomes a habit for life for more people and a regular choice for the majority. The strategy will:
- a) See more people taking on and keeping a sporting habit for life.
- b) Create more opportunities for young people.
- c) Nurture and develop talent.
- d) Provide the right facilities in the right places.
- e) Support local authorities and unlock local funding.
- f) Ensure real opportunities for communities.
- 5.11 Sport England is seeking a year-on-year increase in the proportion of people who play sport once a week for at least 30 minutes. In particular it hopes to raise the percentage of 14-25 year olds playing sport once a week and reduce the proportion dropping out of sport.

5.12 **Anticipated outcomes:** The outcomes with the greatest potential impact on playing pitch use and provision will be as follows:

- a) Every one of the 4,000 secondary schools in England, will be offered a community sport club on its site with a direct link to one or more governing body of sport, depending on the local clubs in its area.
- b) County sports partnerships will be given new resources to create effective links locally between schools and sport in the community.
- c) All secondary schools who wish to do so will be supported to open up, or keep open, their sports facilities for local community use and at least a third of these will receive additional funding to make this happen.
- d) Building on the early success of Places People Play, a further £100m will be invested in facilities for the most popular sports.



A poor quality adult football pitch at Maidstone Road Sports Ground

5.13 **Playing pitch policy:** Sport England's national policies in relation to playing pitches are contained in 'A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England' (2002). It contains a policy of resisting the loss of pitches unless one or more of the following five conditions are met:

- a) A carefully quantified and documented assessment of current and future needs has demonstrated to the satisfaction of Sport England that there is an excess of facility provision in the catchment and that the site has no special significance to the interests of sport.
- b) The proposed development is ancillary to the principal use of the site as a playing field or outdoor sports facility and does not affect the quantity or quality of facilities or adversely affect their use.
- c) The proposed development affects only land incapable of forming a playing pitch or outdoor sports facility and does not result in:

- The loss, or loss of use of, any facility (including the maintenance of adequate safety margins).
 - A reduction in the size of the playing area of any facility.
 - The loss of any other sports/ancillary facilities on site.
- d) The playing field or outdoor sports facility which would be lost as a result of the proposed development would be replaced by facilities of an equivalent or better quality, in a suitable location and subject to equivalent or better management arrangements, prior to the commencement of the development.
- e) The proposed development is for an indoor or outdoor sports facility, the provision of which would be of sufficient benefit to the development of sport to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss of playing field or current outdoor facility.

The Football Association

5.14 **Introduction:** The Football Association's '*National Game Strategy 2011- 2015*' (2011) sets out the priorities for the development of football over the period.

5.15 **Football development objectives:** The objectives of relevance to football in Medway are as follows:

a) **Challenges:** The strategy identifies the following:

- Halting the decline in adult male 11-a-side football.
- Providing local and flexible formats of football to suit changing consumer lifestyles.
- Addressing the drop off at ages 14-19.
- Supporting the transition from mini-soccer to youth and youth to adult.
- Widening affiliation and integrating teams from diverse communities.
- Affiliating and developing football in the commercial small-sided sector.
- Working effectively with changing school sport.

b) **Targets:** The national targets for 2015 of relevance to football in Medway are as follows:

- Retain 30,355 adult male 11-a-side teams and grow to 30,550 teams.
- Retain 1,437 adult female 11-a-side teams and grow to 1,500 teams.
- Grow adult football by 150,000 new participants playing once a week.
- Increase male and female disability teams to 1,264 and 238 teams.

- Increase adult small-sided teams from 28,370 to 30,000 (5.75% increase).
- Retain and grow mini-soccer, male and female youth teams.
- Retain 30,500 intra and inter-school teams.

c) **Priorities:** The priorities for 2015 are as follows:

- Focus resources on retaining and developing the existing affiliated teams.
- Halt the decline in adult male 11-a-side and retain female 11-a-side teams by improving the access and quality of pitches, providing a referee for every game, supporting volunteers, using technology and increasing participation through FA ‘Just Play’ Centres and the ‘Get into Football’ programmes.
- Develop the FA’s children and young people offer to sustain participation and address drop-out at key phases mini-soccer to youth, 14-16 and 16-19.
- Continue to support existing and diverse communities to participate in affiliated football.
- Develop different affiliation and benefits packages for groups not traditionally affiliated.
- Embed flexible formats of football such as 60 minute matches, shorter competition programmes and turn-up-and-play and develop playing opportunities to meet changing player lifestyles.

5.16 **Facility development objectives:**

a) **Challenges:** The strategy identifies the following:

- Funding cuts in local authorities leading to loss of playing fields, reduction in access and increased costs.
- The impact of the public sector transferring community facilities to new providers.
- Protection of playing fields.
- Managing and supporting the workforce involved with facilities - paid and voluntary.
- Developing facilities with reduced dependence on public subsidy.
- Implementing the recommendations in the FA Youth Development Review.

b) **Target:** The national target for 2015 is to invest £115 million in facilities.

c) **Priorities:** The priorities for 2015 are as follows:

- Maximise all investment into facilities, including Football Foundation grants and other sources of capital.
- Champion and promote the protection of playing fields.
- Develop sustainable facility models, new procurement opportunities and cost-effective facility designs and options.
- Manage existing resources more effectively.

5.17 **Youth Development Review:** The FA recently concluded its Youth Development Review, which will lead to changes to formats and facilities within grassroots youth football from season 2013/14 onwards. The proposals include raising the minimum age for competitive leagues, developing small-sided football and introducing a 9-a-side game for Under 11s. The FA is proposing a range of revised pitch sizes, better suited to the needs of children of different ages.

<i>Age</i>	<i>Format</i>	<i>Pitch Size (yards)</i>	<i>Goal size (feet)</i>
7	5v5	30x20 to 40x30	12x6
8	5v5	30x20 to 40x30	12x6
9	7v7	50x30 to 60x40	12x6
10	7v7	50x30 to 60x40	12x6
11	9v9	70x40 to 80x50	16x7 to 21x7
12	9v9	70x40 to 80x50	16x7 to 21x7
13	9v9 or 11v11	90x50 to 100x60	21x7 to 24x8
14	9v9 or 11v11	90x50 to 100x60	21x7 to 24x8
15	9v9 or 11v11	90x50 to 110x70	24x8
16	9v9 or 11v11	90x50 to 110x70	24x8
17	11v11	90x50 to 110x70	24x8
18	11v11	90x50 to 110x70	24x8

5.18 It is considered that the proposed changes will potentially reduce the drop out of teams at the U10 to U11 age group and provide more involvement in the game for children. This will have the advantage of providing a more phased progression for learning and development, increase the number of touches, shots and dribbles for each player and potentially keep more late developers in the system.

England and Wales Cricket Board

5.19 **Introduction:** The ECB's 'National Club Strategy' (2012) sets out the priorities for developing cricket at club level over the next few years.

5.20 **Current issues:** These have been identified as follows:

- Many clubs are unable to make long-term plans for a sustainable future.
- It is difficult to recruit and retain adult players, members and volunteers.
- Growth is compromised by poor access, to and the quality of, club facilities.
- Many clubs have poor security of tenure.
- Club income streams are typically static or falling.

- f) Volunteer's time is used ineffectively due to excessive bureaucracy.
- g) The time and cost of travelling to and from fixtures is increasing.
- h) The effects of climate change have impacted on pitch maintenance.

5.21 **Strategic priorities:** The key priority is to create sustainable clubs by encouraging clubs to create a culture that embraces change, advocates best practice and understands that people are the most important asset of a cricket club. To support this, the ECB will:

- a) Support, develop and reward the skills required to grow and sustain participation. Provide easy access to high-quality training and support. Ensure that people are at the heart of maintaining the spirit of cricket and providing a fun, open, fair and accessible game.
- b) Develop accessible, high quality and innovative facilities, which inspire the nation to choose cricket. Create a culture of sustainable development that will leave a legacy for generations to come.
- c) Develop appropriate, innovative competitions. Improve the experience for existing players in order to help recruit new and lapsed players, as well as to help retain players between the critical ages of 16 - 22 and 25 - 35 years of age.



Cricket pavilion at Kings School, Rochester

5.22 The ECB announced in December 2011 that, following the annual comprehensive survey of participation in community cricket, the club game had seen a five per cent increase in participation across all age groups

Rugby Football Union

5.23 **Introduction:** The RFUs 'National facilities Strategy for Rugby Union in England' (2009) provides a framework for facility provision.

5.24 **Current issues:** Facility audits have identified a number of areas of required facility development. These include:

- a) Improved quality and quantity of natural grass pitches.
- b) Improved quality and quantity of changing provision for men, women and young people.
- c) Improved access to artificial turf training facilities.
- d) Increased quantity and quality of floodlit areas.
- e) Improved standard of social facilities
- f) Enhanced and increased provision for spectators.

5.25 The condition of a number of facilities at club level is also a cause for concern.

- a) 65% of women's teams felt constrained by inadequate changing facilities.
- b) 69% of clubs said that their changing facilities were generally inadequate.
- c) Only 12% of clubs have adequate floodlighting at 200 lux, whilst 40% of clubs have adequate floodlighting at 100 lux.
- d) 22% of clubs have no training area at all.
- e) 31% of clubs have limited disabled access.

5.26 **Facility priorities:** These are as follows:

- a) Increase the provision of integrated changing facilities that are child friendly and can sustain concurrent male and female activity at the club.
- b) Improve the quality and quantity of natural turf pitches.
- c) Increase the number of Artificial Turf Pitches.
- d) Improve the quality and quantity of community use floodlighting.
- e) Improve the quality and quantity of competition floodlighting.
- f) Provide a safe environment for all rugby and sporting activity.
- g) Support central venues for player, coach, officials and volunteer training.
- h) Support the development of multi-sports clubs.
- i) Other projects that assist clubs to become sustainable.

England Hockey

- 5.27 **Introduction:** England Hockey's strategy for facility provision is set out in '*The Right Pitches in the Right Places*' (2011).
- 5.28 **Participation targets:** England Hockey wishes to attract and retain more people into the sport, in particular by retaining club members, and increasing new membership by 10,000 adults and 32,500 children.
- 5.29 **Facility provision:** There are approximately 1000 sand filled or dressed and 50 water based pitches in England. Most have been installed in the past 10-15 years. Many of the sand-filled or sand-dressed pitches involve provision in partnership with schools or local authorities. A considerable number of these pitches are used for multi-sport activity and in most cases hockey is not the dominant user.
- 5.30 As of 2011 affiliated hockey clubs are utilising around two thirds of the sand and water artificial turf pitches in England. The clubs are collectively using around 7,000 hours between September and April and reduced hours during the summer months. Outside of this club use, sits the Single System of coaching and development which uses 2,000 hours annually. 32% of pitches are over 10 yrs old, 12% 15 yrs old and 4% over 20 years old.
- 5.31 England Hockey will be looking into pitch resurfacing cycles, to identify age of pitches and to guide facility providers as to when they need to start to think about replacing their surface. 400 sand filled pitches are over 15 years old and alongside developing new facilities, it will be a priority to ensure that existing facilities receive appropriate maintenance.

UK Athletics

- 5.32 **Introduction:** '*Athletics Facilities: Planning and Delivery 2007 - 2012*' (2007) is UK Athletics' facilities strategy.
- 5.33 **Planning standard:** The Strategy proposes a standard of one outdoor synthetic track (6 or 8 lanes) per 250,000 people within 20 minutes drive (45 minutes in rural areas).
- 5.34 **Track refurbishment:** There are still a large number of UK tracks that do not have the appropriate level of track certification. In most cases, refurbishing a track is less expensive than building a new one and it will be a priority of the next five years to persuade local authorities and other facility operators to bring tracks up to the required standard to achieve full certification. Immediately there is a need in about 40% of UK tracks for the upgrade of pole vault landing areas and throwing cages to bring this equipment up to modern safety standards and meet the current UK Athletics Rules for Competition.

Bowls England

- 5.35 Bowls England does not have a current development plan or facilities strategy to inform the assessment of bowls provision in Medway.

Lawn Tennis Association

- 5.36 **Introduction:** The LTA's strategy is called '*Places to Play*' (2010) and covers the period 2011 to 2015. The LTA aims to get more people to play tennis more frequently. The strategy aims to provide high quality facilities for everyone at a convenient location, by increasing opportunities for people to play tennis on a regular basis at tennis clubs close to their home on safe and well maintained tennis courts.



Clubhouse and floodlit courts at Frindsbury Tennis Club

- 5.37 **Development objectives:** The key strategic objectives are as follows:
- Access for everyone to well-maintained high quality tennis facilities which are either free or 'pay-as-you-play'.
 - A Clubmark accredited place to play within a 10 minute drive of the whole population.
 - Indoor tennis courts within a 20 minute drive time of the whole population.
 - A mini tennis (10 and under) performance programme within a 20 minute drive of the whole population. (Performance Centres).
 - A performance programme for 11 - 15 year olds within a 45 minute drive time of the whole population. (High Performance Centre).
- 5.38 **Facilities objectives:** The facilities objectives are as follows:
- Improving facilities at high quality places to play:** Enhancing facility provision at performance venues and Clubmark accredited places to play.
 - Tennis in community settings:** Beacon sites - supporting LA's to bring back into use existing community tennis facilities and working with them to develop affordable quality tennis programmes.

- c) **Sustainability:** Advising places to play to ring fence funding to ensure existing facilities can be upgraded or replaced when they get to the end of their life.

Gravesham Borough Council

5.39 **Introduction:** The Council's 'Open Space, Sport and Recreation Strategy' (2010) contains a number of elements of relevance to provision in Medway.

5.40 **Grass pitches:** The following standards were set:

<i>Pitch type</i>	<i>Standard</i>
Adult football pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One adult pitch (1.2ha) per 3,750 people. • All aspects of all pitches rate 'average' or better. • The whole population within 15 minutes walk.
Youth football pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One youth pitch (1.0ha) per 3,100 people. • All aspects of all pitches rate 'average' or better. • The whole population within 15 minutes walk.
Mini-soccer pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One mini-soccer pitch (0.6ha) per 3,100 people. • All aspects of all pitches rate 'average' or better. • The whole population within 15 minutes walk.
Cricket pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One cricket pitch (2.0ha) per 5,600 people. • All aspects of all pitches rate 'average' or better. • The whole population within 15 minutes walk.
Rugby pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One rugby pitch (2.0ha) per 9,800 people. • All aspects of all pitches rate 'average' or better. • The whole population within 20 minutes walk.

5.41 The standards produced the following assessment of provision.

<i>Pitch type</i>	<i>Effective position</i>
Adult football pitches	Surplus of 19.2 pitches
Youth football pitches	Shortfall of 9.5 pitches
Mini-soccer pitches	Shortfall of 22.4 pitches
Cricket pitches	Surplus of 1.6 pitches
Rugby pitches	Surplus of 0.7 pitches

5.42 **Athletics tracks:** The following standard was set:

- a) One six-lane 400m synthetic track per 250,000 people.
- b) All aspects of a track and its ancillary facilities should rate 'average' or better.
- c) The whole population within 20 minutes drive of the nearest track.

5.43 There is no provision in Gravesham at present and the application of the standard identified that no provision is required, with local needs met by the tracks in Medway.

5.44 **Synthetic turf pitches:** The following standard was set:

- a) One full-sized floodlit synthetic turf pitch (101.4m x 63m) per 98,000 people.

- b) All aspects of all pitches and ancillary facilities should rate ‘average’ or better.
- c) The whole urban population within 15 minutes walk and the whole rural population within 15 minutes drive of their closest pitch.

5.45 There is no additional provision required in Gravesham at present, in part because some local needs met by the pitches in Medway.



Small-sided synthetic turf pitch at Woodlands Primary School

5.46 **Bowling greens:** The following standard was set:

- a) One bowling green per 11,000 people.
- b) All aspects of a green and its ancillary facilities should rate ‘average’ or better.
- c) The whole urban population within 15 minutes walk and the whole rural population within 15 minutes drive of their closest green.

5.47 On the basis of the standard, all local needs are currently met in Gravesham.

5.48 **Tennis courts:** The following standard was set:

- a) One tennis court per 2,250 people.
- b) All aspects of a court and its ancillary facilities should rate ‘average’ or better.
- c) The whole urban population within 10 minutes walk and the whole rural population within 10 minutes drive of their closest court.

5.49 On the basis of the standard, all local needs are currently met in Gravesham.

5.50 **Golf courses:** The following standard was set:

- a) One 18-hole golf course per 28,000 people.

- b) All aspects of a course and its ancillary facilities should rate ‘average’ or better.
- c) The whole population within 15 drive of their closest course.

5.51 On the basis of the standard, all local needs are currently met in Gravesham.

Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council

5.52 *‘The Tonbridge and Malling Open Space Strategy’* (2009) includes a generic standard of 2.05ha of pitches and outdoor sports facilities per 1,000 people, of which 1.2ha are pitches, within 20 minutes drive of the whole population and with quality rated as at least ‘average’.

5.53 The assessment in the Strategy concludes that:

- a) **Quantity:** There are 98 publicly accessible pitches and outdoor sports facilities in Tonbridge and Malling, comprising 219 ha (69% of all facilities in the borough). There is no shortage of grass pitches in the borough as a whole (although there is a localised deficiency in East Peckham and West Malling), but a lack of off-pitch grassed areas suitable for training and shortfall of synthetic turf pitches.
- b) **Quality:** 35% of pitches and outdoor facilities are rated as ‘good’, 48% are ‘adequate’ and 17% are ‘poor’, failing to meet Sport England standards. Major pitch issues include poor grass playing surfaces, poor drainage, and lack of changing facilities.

Maidstone Borough Council

5.54 The Council’s *‘Open Space Development Plan Document* (2006) includes an assessment of pitches and outdoor sports facilities. The document contains the following generic standards:

- a) **Urban areas:** 1.4ha of pitches and outdoor facilities of at least ‘average’ quality per 1,000 people and within a 10-15 minute walk (1,200m).
- b) **Rural areas:** 2.7ha of pitches and outdoor facilities of at least ‘average’ quality per 1,000 people and within a 10-15 minute walk (1,200m).

5.55 The application of the standard produced an assessed shortfall in all parts of the borough other than the southern sub-area, with the largest deficit of 0.7ha per 1,000 people in the northern sub-area immediately adjacent to Medway. The DPD also notes that ‘the quality of outdoor sports facilities in the northern area is a cause for concern. 37% of local representatives rated the quality as very poor. Many of the other respondents rated quality as either average (26%) or poor (23%)’.

Swale Borough Council

5.56 The *‘Swale Open Space Strategy 2009 - 2014* (2010) assesses the adequacy of provision of provision of all forms of open space, including playing pitches. The strategy contains the following generic standard for outdoor sports facilities (excluding golf courses):

- a) **Quantity:** To ensure that provision does not fall below the current level of 1.09 ha per 1,000 population.
- b) **Quality:** To strive for all formal outdoor sport sites to be of an ‘average’ quality.
- c) **Accessibility:** To provide an accessible outdoor sports facility within 800m of where people live.

5.57 The application of the standard identifies that the Sittingbourne sub-area, adjacent to the boundary with Medway, has levels of provision of 1.20ha per 1,000 people, well above the boroughwide standard. 28% of the population of the borough lives more than 800m from their nearest outdoor sports facility.



Changing facilities at Barnfield Playing Fields

The implications for playing pitch provision

- 5.58 The external strategic context will have an important influence in on playing pitch and outdoor sports facility provision in Medway. In particular:
- a) The ‘*National Planning Policy Framework*’ affirms the importance of playing pitches in sustainable development and confirms the need to assess local needs and opportunities for open space, sport and recreation facilities and to develop local standards of provision.
 - b) Sport England’s strategy places emphasis on developing facilities and activity programmes on school sites, which highlights the need to formalise existing community access to education pitches in Medway and to develop additional opportunities, using available Sport England funding where appropriate.

- c) Sport England's planning policies focus upon the need to plan for playing pitch provision on the basis of assessments of need, taking account of the strategic plans of the governing bodies of sport, but also based upon a detailed appraisal of local circumstances.
- d) The Football Association's strategy will have the following impact:
- The emphasis on small-sided and shorter formats of the game may shift facility requirements away from full-sized grass pitches to smaller, floodlit, synthetic turf facilities.
 - The changes in pitch sizes and competition formats arising from the Youth Development Review will need to be accommodated.
- e) The key priority of the England and Wales Cricket Board is to create sustainable clubs by encouraging clubs to create a culture that embraces change, advocates best practice and understands that people are the most important asset of a cricket club.
- f) The Rugby Football Union has a priority to increase the provision of integrated changing facilities that are child friendly and can sustain concurrent male and female activity at the club.
- g) Two of the eight synthetic turf pitches in Medway were installed more than ten years ago, so England Hockey's priority for pitch renewal and upgrades will be significant.
- h) Policy documents and assessment of sports facilities and open space provision from neighbouring local authorities will impact upon pitch provision in Medway. In particular, assessed shortfalls in the provision of pitches in the northern parts of Maidstone and Tonbridge and Malling may import demand to the southern part of the study area.

VI. ASSESSMENTS OF NEED

Introduction

6.1 This section examines the data and evidence gathered on local perceptions of need for playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities provision. The sources assessed include:

- a) **Previous survey:** The result of the community survey carried out in connection with 'The Medway Open Space Study' (2012), that convey opinions on local provision.
- b) **Current surveys:** Surveys that were carried out specifically in connection with the playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities study, including:
 - A survey of pitch sports clubs.
 - A survey of schools.
- c) **Stakeholder consultation:** Consultation was initiated with a range of local stakeholders including the governing bodies of sport and local league secretaries.

Open Space Study survey

6.2 **Introduction:** The survey was conducted in 2011 and involved a series of consultations to identify the local needs and views of Medway residents in relation to existing open space, sport and recreation facilities. A postal questionnaire was used to gather information on the general public's attitudes to existing provision, their quality and accessibility and any deficiencies in their areas. 4,500 copies were distributed, and a 30.3% response rate achieved.

6.3 **Quantity of outdoor sports facilities:** The views of residents on the quantity of outdoor sports facilities was as follows and shows that almost half of those questioned believe that there is a need for more provision:

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Too many</i>	<i>About right</i>	<i>Too few</i>
Chatham	1%	43%	56%
Gillingham	2%	43%	55%
Rainham	3%	59%	38%
Rochester	0%	53%	47%
Strood and Rural	0%	58%	42%
Medway	1%	52%	47%

6.4 **Usage of outdoor sports facilities:** The figures for frequency of use of outdoor sports facilities confirm the findings of the 'Active People' survey that local rates of participation are low:

<i>Frequency of use</i>	<i>% Respondents</i>
Every day	0%
Once or twice a week	5%
Two or three times a month	4%
Once a month	2%
Once every two or three months	2%
Less often	8%
Never	79%

6.5 **Quality of outdoor sports facilities:** Respondents were asked to rate the quality of their preferred outdoor facility. Responses were marked on a numerical scale representing positive or negative ratings and then averaged to produce an overall 'score' between +2 and -2. A positive average score therefore reflects an overall positive rating, with the opposite the case for negative scores. Most of the scores reflect an overall rating between 'average' and 'good'. Although changing facilities are rated between 'average' and 'poor'.

<i>Element</i>	<i>Mean scores</i>
Cost of use	+0.56
Quality of playing surface	+0.55
Parking	+0.41
Pitch markings	+0.24
Security and supervision	+0.16
Quality of equipment	+0.09
Quality of changing/showers	-0.24

6.6 **Accessibility:** The mode of transport used by respondents to travel to their preferred facility was as follows:

<i>Mode of transport</i>	<i>% Respondents</i>
Car	60%
Walk or jog	31%
More than one means of transport	7%
Public transport	2%
Cycle	0%

Sports clubs survey

6.7 **Introduction:** An e-mail questionnaire survey was conducted amongst a sample of 115 pitch and outdoor sports clubs in Medway. 13 completed returns were received, an 11.3% response rate. Whilst the low response rate means that the findings are not statistically significant, they nevertheless give a useful indication of the current position of local clubs. The material covered by the survey was as follows:

- a) Club profiles in terms of membership, trends and development aspirations.
- b) Opinions on the pitches and facilities used, including quality, convenience and availability.
- c) Opinions on existing levels of outdoor facility provision

6.8 **Club profile:** The profile of local clubs is as follows:

a) **Overall membership size:** This is as follows:

<i>Number of members</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
1 - 50	4	30.8%
51 - 100	3	23.1%
More than 100	6	46.1%

b) **Membership composition:** The percentage members of all responding sports clubs in different membership categories are listed below:

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Under 16's	38.0%	5.5%
Aged 16 and above	46.3%	10.2%
TOTAL	84.3%	15.7%

c) **Membership trends:** 5 (38.5%) clubs reported increased membership over the past five years, 6 (46.2%) have remained static and 2 (15.4%) have experienced a fall in members.

d) **Development plan:** 4 (30.8%) clubs currently have a development plan and 9 (69.2%) do not.

e) **Quality accreditation:** 4 clubs (30.8%) currently hold an award such as Club Mark, Clubs First, Seal of Approval or Charter Standard and 9 (69.2%) do not..

f) **Problem issues:** Clubs reported the following issues as currently problematic for them:

<i>Problem</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Lack of external funding (grants etc.)	7	53.8%
Membership recruitment/retention	6	46.2%
Lack of internal funding (subs etc.)	4	30.8%
Shortage of volunteer help	3	23.1%
Access difficulties for members (e.g. lack of public transport)	2	15.4%
Lack of appropriate local facilities	2	15.4%
Lack of information about local facilities/services	1	7.7%
Limited links/co-operation with other local clubs	0	0.0%

g) **Future plans:** Clubs reported the following current plans:

<i>Problem</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Increase the number of members	10	76.9%
Expand the range of facilities provided	5	38.5%
Refurbish existing facilities	4	30.8%
Relocation to different premises	0	0.0%
None	1	7.7%

6.9 **Facility use:** The use of local pitches and facilities by clubs is summarised below:

- a) **Convenience of location:** All 13 clubs say the facilities they use are at their preferred location and none that they are not.
- b) **Availability of facilities:** 11 (84.6%) clubs say that the pitches they use are always available when needed, 2 (15.4%) that they are mostly available when needed and none that they are sometimes available when needed.
- c) **Problems of non-availability:** The problems caused by non-availability to the clubs with limited access are as follows:

Problem	Percentage
Unable to train as frequently as needed	7.7%
Have to play home fixtures elsewhere	7.7%
Unable to increase club membership	0.0%



Sloping pitches at Priestfield Recreation Ground

- d) **Quality of facilities:** Views on the quality of the pitches and facilities used are below:

Element	Good quality (%)	Acceptable quality (%)	Poor quality (%)
Firmness of surface	66.7%	33.3%	0.0%
Grip underfoot	66.7%	33.3%	0.0%
Bounce of ball on pitch	54.5%	45.4%	0.0%
Flatness of pitch	41.7%	33.3%	25.0%
Length of grass	50.0%	41.7%	8.3%
Grass cover	50.0%	41.7%	8.3%
Posts and sockets	16.7%	66.6%	16.7%
Line markings	16.7%	83.3%	0.0%
Free from litter/dog fouling	33.3%	33.3%	33.3%
Changing facilities	33.3%	58.3%	8.3%
Showers	66.7%	22.2%	11.1%
Parking	58.3%	16.7%	25.0%
Value for money	33.3%	41.7%	23.0%
Overall quality of pitch	41.7%	41.7%	16.7%

6.10 **Views on existing provision:** Views on the quantity of existing facilities in Medway were as follows:

Facility	Too many (%)	About right (%)	Too few (%)
Athletics tracks	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Synthetic turf pitches	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Tennis courts	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%
Bowling greens	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%
Golf courses	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%

Schools survey

6.11 **Introduction:** An e-mail questionnaire survey was conducted amongst all schools in Medway. Six completed returns were received, a 7% response rate. Whilst the low response rate means that the findings are not statistically significant, they nevertheless give a useful indication of the current position of local schools. The material covered by the survey was as follows:

- a) Details of current provision and aspirations for future improvements.
- b) The basis and amount of community use.
- c) The condition of pitches.
- d) Attitudes to new or enhanced community use in the future.



Featherby Junior School showing pitch wear

6.12 **Existing provision and community use:** The table below summarises the pitches that are currently provided by schools who responded and those where there is currently external community use.

Facility type	Currently provide	Available for Community use
Senior football pitch	2	2
Youth football pitch	3	0
Mini-Soccer pitch	4	3
Cricket pitch	0	0
Cricket pitch with artificial wickets	0	0
Adult Rugby pitch	1	0
Junior Rugby pitch	0	0
Synthetic turf pitch	0	0
Tennis courts	3	3

6.13 **Current condition of pitches:** This was self-assessed as follows:

Element	Good quality (%)	Acceptable quality (%)	Poor quality (%)
Firmness of surface	60.0%	40.0%	0.0%
Grip underfoot	60.0%	40.0%	0.0%
Bounce of ball on pitch	50.0%	50.0%	0.0%
Flatness of pitch	25.0%	25.0%	50.0%
Length of grass	25.0%	75.0%	0.0%
Grass cover	50.0%	25.0%	25.0%
Posts and sockets	40.0%	20.0%	40.0%
Line markings	40.0%	60.0%	0.0%
Free from litter	60.0%	40.0%	0.0%
Free from dog fouling	80.0%	20.0%	0.0%
Changing facilities	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Showers	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Parking	25.0%	50.0%	25.0%
Overall quality of pitch	50.0%	50.0%	0.0%

6.14 **Current community use:** No schools currently allow external use of their pitches by community clubs and none has a formal community use agreement in place.

6.15 **Future community use:** Two schools (Hempstead Junior School in Gillingham and Bradfields School in Chatham) indicated that they would consider accommodating additional community use in the future.

Stakeholder consultation

6.16 **Introduction:** Consultation was initiated with the governing bodies of all the sports included in the study, together with local league secretaries, to obtain views on playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities provision in Medway. This section summarises the responses to that consultation.

6.17 **Football:** The key points raised by the Kent FA were as follows:

- a) **Delegated pitch bookings:** Medway Council has delegated football pitch bookings at its sites to local league secretaries, who in turn allocate the pitches to individual teams. This system works well and all the pitches are fully utilised every weekend during the season, although teams that cannot be accommodated on a council-owned pitch have to make alternative arrangements, including hiring schools pitches.

- b) **Schools pitches:** A large proportion of football pitches in Medway are on school sites and many clubs find it difficult to access these.
- c) **Security of tenure:** Many clubs with youth and mini-soccer teams, have brokered individual pitch hire arrangements with schools, that are renewed on a season-by-season basis but have no longer term security of tenure.
- d) **Pitch quality:** There is a general concern over football pitch quality, including a major issue with dog fouling and to a lesser extent litter.
- e) **Changing facilities:** Most facilities used by the youth leagues have no changing facilities.
- f) **Car parking:** Few pitch sites are judged to have adequate on-site car parking.
- g) **Costs:** Many Medway clubs are concerned about the cost of pitch hire and the Kent FA believes that it is a major factor in the decline in adult football. There are examples from around the country where local authorities have reduced pitch prices, and even made them free, for specific programmes to increase participation such as U21 Leagues and this is an area that the County FA is keen to explore.
- h) **Synthetic turf pitches:** The Kent FA identified a need for an additional 8.7 '3G' Football Turf pitches in Medway (based on a formula of 56 teams per pitch), with there being a need for an additional 335 one hour training slots per week to meet current demand. It is currently undertaking a mapping exercise of current sand-filled artificial pitches that could be converted to '3G' pitches in Kent.
- i) **Revised small-sided pitch formats:** Discussions are ongoing between the local leagues and Medway Council on designating dedicated sites for the new 9v9 pitch formats. The FA is encouraging clubs to buy portable 'kit' goals which can be disassembled and taken off-site after matches.



Clubhouse at Gillingham Golf Club

6.18 **Cricket:** The key points raised were as follows:

- a) **Clubs:** The Kent Cricket Board reports a situation on the ground in Medway at variance with the overall participation rates as reported by Active People with up to 10 clubs having disbanded in recent years. The KCB is therefore giving priority to development in Medway in coming years.
- b) **Pitches:** Cricket pitches have disappeared from Langton, Hempstead and the Garrison Ground in recent years. Pitch provision by state schools is poor or non-existent, but the cost of hiring pitches at private schools is often prohibitive. Three clubs in Medway are forced to play at least some of their fixtures on pitches in neighbouring areas due to shortfalls within the study area.
- c) **Pavilions:** These are often poor quality, but in some instances the lack of security of tenure inhibits external funding applications. This is a particular problem for Rainham Cricket Club.

6.19 **Rugby:** The key points raised were as follows:

- a) **Clubs:** There are four rugby union clubs in Medway and one rugby league club. All are currently thriving.
- b) **Pitches:** Medway Rugby Club is currently seeking to secure an additional pitch at its base at Priestfields, by converting an under-utilised adult football pitch. The quality of most rugby pitches in Medway is adequate.



Synthetic turf pitch at Thomas Aveling School, Rochester

6.20 **Hockey:** The Gillingham Anchorians and Old Williamsons Hockey Clubs are both seeking to relay the synthetic turf pitches that they use in the near future, because each pitch is more than ten years old.

The implications for playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities provision

- 6.21 The analysis of local need for pitches and outdoor sports facilities in Medway has highlighted a number of key issues that will be strongly reflected in the study assessment.
- a) Almost half (47%) of the respondents to the community survey believe that there are too few pitches and outdoor sports facilities in Medway at present. Perceptions of facility quality are generally positive.
 - b) Only 21% of community survey respondents actually use pitches and outdoor sports facilities.
 - c) All of local sports clubs who responded have access to facilities at their location of choice and 84.6% of them say they are always available when needed, which suggests that local facility supply is reasonably good. Perceptions of facility quality are generally positive, although changing facilities are the aspect that is least favourably rated.
 - d) Consultation with other local stakeholders highlighted a number of quality issues with pitch and related facility provision in Medway.

VII. PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES DEMAND

Introduction

- 7.1 This section analyses the demand for playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities in Medway. It identifies demand from clubs and teams in the following sports:
- a) Football.
 - b) Cricket.
 - c) Rugby (union and league).
 - d) Hockey.
 - e) Athletics.
 - f) Bowls.
 - g) Tennis.
 - h) Golf.
- 7.2 **Sub-area analysis:** To enable analysis to be undertaken at a local level, five sub-areas of Medway have been identified and provision in each is analysed for those sports with a significant presence at sub-area level.

Demand for football

- 7.3 **Introduction:** The data on demand for football in Medway is detailed below. It was compiled from the Football Association's 'Football Participation Report' for Medway for 2011/2012.
- 7.4 **Football conversion rates:** The FA calculated the following Football Conversion Rates, to compare the number of people playing football with the local population in each age group, to produce a percentage of each age group that plays football.

Age group	Medway (%)	South-East (%)	England (%)
Adult male (ages 17 - 44)	5.8%	5.6%	5.2%
Adult female (ages 17 - 44)	0.3%	0.2%	0.3%
Youth male (ages 10 - 16)	20.7%	23.5%	20.7%
Youth female (ages 10 - 16)	2.0%	2.2%	2.1%
Mini-soccer (ages 5 - 9)	9.6%	10.3%	9.3%
TOTAL	5.3%	5.6%	5.2%

- 7.5 The Football Conversion Rates show that in all cases participation rates in Medway are close to the respective national average, but that the rates for youth football and mini-soccer are below the regional average for the South-East.
- 7.6 **Charter standard:** Of the 160 football clubs in Medway, 30 (21.8%) have achieved the FA's quality assured Charter Standard. 89.0% of youth and mini-soccer teams are part of a Charter Standard club, well above the national target of 75%.

7.7 **Competitions:** Football teams in Medway play in 25 different leagues and competitions, with the Medway Messenger Youth League and the Rochester and District Sunday League attracting the most local teams.

7.8 **Imported/exported demand:** Some players for clubs based in Medway are drawn from outside the local area, however the effect is broadly neutral because some Medway-based players also play for teams in neighbouring areas.

7.9 **Football clubs:** The following clubs and teams currently play in Medway:

<i>Club</i>	<i>Home Ground</i>	<i>Adult Teams</i>	<i>Youth Teams</i>	<i>Mini Teams</i>
44 Two FC	4-4-2 Sports and Social Club	1	0	0
AFC Playfootball	Howard School, Rainham	1	0	0
Anchorians FC	Anchorians Sports Ground	2	11	3
Anchorians Athletic FC	Anchorians Sports Ground	1	0	0
Annexe FC	Priestfields Recreation Ground	1	0	0
Aquachain FC	Knight's Place, Rochester	1	0	0
Arriva FC	Knight's Place, Rochester	1	0	0
Black Lion Sports FC	Beechings Way Recreation Ground	1	0	0
Black Lion Youth FC	Village Sports Club, Hoo	0	2	1
Bleakwood Rangers FC	Hempstead Recreation Ground	1	0	0
Bly Spartans FC	Winget Sports Ground	3	1	0
Borstall 88 FC	Balfour Recreation Ground	0	3	0
Bredhurst Juniors FC	Cliffe Woods Recreation Ground	0	4	0
Bredhurst Rovers FC	Beechings Way Recreation Ground	2	0	0
Burnt Oak 08 FC	Luton Recreation Ground	1	0	0
Cannon 24 FC	Garrison Sports Ground	1	0	0
Charta Lions FC	Barnfield Playing Fields	1	0	0
Chatham Colts FC	Horstead Junior School	0	1	0
Chatham Riverside FC	Deangate Ridge Thomas Aveling School	1	4	4
Chatham Town FC	Bourneville Avenue Sports Ground	2	5	2
City Wall FC	Knight's Place, Rochester	1	0	0
Cliffe Royals FC	APCM Recreation Ground	2	4	2
Cliffe Woods FC	Cliffe Woods Recreation Ground	3	0	0
Cliffe Woods Colts FC	Cliffe Woods Recreation Ground	3	3	1
Cliffe Woods Rangers FC	Cliffe Woods Recreation Ground	1	0	0
Collyers FC	Beechings Cross	1	0	0
Crown FC	Knight's Place, Rochester	1	0	0
Cuxton 1991 FC	Cuxton Recreation Ground	2	4	2
Cuxton Social United FC	Cuxton Recreation Ground	1	0	0
Cuxton Village FC	Cuxton Recreation Ground	1	0	0
Deanview 95 FC	Anchorians Sports Ground	1	1	0
Deanwood FC	Hempstead Recreation Ground	1	0	0
Earl Juniors FGC	Sherwin Knight School, Strood	0	1	0
Eden FC	Barnfield Playing Fields	1	0	0
Emerald Star Rainham FC	Rainham Recreation Ground	1	0	0
Equal Teams Medway FC	Greenacre School, Walderslade	1	0	0
FC Borstal	Borstal Recreation Ground	0	1	0
FC Quayside	Beechings Cross	1	0	0
FC Wouldham	Hempstead Recreation Ground	1	0	0
Featherby FC	Luton Recreation Ground	1	0	0
General at Sea FC	Barnfield Playing Fields	1	0	0

<i>Club</i>	<i>Home Ground</i>	<i>Adult Teams</i>	<i>Junior Teams</i>	<i>Mini Teams</i>
Gillingham FC	Priestfield Stadium	2	3	0
Gillingham Ladies FC	Woodstock Park, Sittingbourne	2	0	0
Gillingham Green FC	Beechings Cross	1	0	0
Gillingham Town FC	Barnfield Playing Fields	2	0	0
Golden Stars FC	Snodhurst Bottom	1	0	0
Grain Athletic FC	St. James Park, Isle of Grain	1	0	0
Green Lion	Beechings Cross	1	0	0
Halling FC	Knight's Place, Rochester	1	0	0
Hempstead Valley FC	Snodhurst Bottom	0	6	6
Hollands and Blair FC	Star Meadow Sports Club Garrison Sports Ground	4	5	0
Hoo Institute FC	Hoo Village Institute	1	0	0
Horsted FC	Snodhurst Bottom	1	0	0
Horsted Youth FC	New Brompton College	0	6	2
Inn Bar Taverns FC	Knight's Place, Rochester	1	0	0
Insanity FC	Beechings Cross	1	0	0
Intergills Kent FC	Beechings Cross Rainham Recreation Ground	2	0	0
Invicta Colts FC	Knight's Place, Rochester	1	0	0
Isle of Grain Youth FC	Seaview Meadows	0	1	2
Jubilee FC	Knight's Place, Rochester	1	0	0
Keyworth FC	Beechings Cross	1	0	0
Lipscomb Fiat FC	Hook Meadow, Chatham	1	0	0
Lordswood FC	Lordswood Sports & Social Club	2	4	0
Lordswood Athletic FC	Beechings Cross	1	0	0
Lordswood Colts FC	Luton Recreation Ground	1	0	0
Lordswood Youth FC	Lordswood Sports & Social Club Spinnens Acre School	0	7	6
Luton (Sunday) FC	Snodhurst Bottom	1	0	0
Luton Rangers FC	Luton Recreation Ground	1	0	0
Mackland Arms FC	Rainham Recreation Ground	1	0	0
Medway 2000 FC	Barnfield Playing Fields	1	0	0
Medway Athletic FC	Barnfield Playing Fields	1	0	0
Medway City FC	Lordswood Sports & Social Club	1	0	0
Medway Colts FC	Priestfields Recreation Ground	1	0	0
Medway Jets FC	APCM Recreation Ground	1	0	0
Medway Knights FC	APCM Recreation Ground	1	0	0
Medway Lions FC	Deangate Ridge	1	0	0
Medway Magic FC	Snodhurst Bottom	2	0	0
Medway NPU FC	Borstal Recreation Ground	1	0	0
Medway Queen FC	Luton Recreation Ground	1	0	0
Medway Rams FC	Luton Recreation Ground	1	0	0
Medway Rovers FC	Beechings Way Recreation Ground	2	0	0
Medway United FC	Anchorians Sports Ground	1	0	0
Meridian Girls FC	Hook Meadow, Chatham	1	7	1
Mid Kent College 'A' FC	Winget Sports Ground	4	0	0
Napier Arms Rovers FC	Beechings Way Recreation Ground	1	0	0
O'Connells FC	Snodhurst Bottom	1	0	0
Omega 92 FC	Priestfields Recreation Ground Beechings Way Recreation Ground	1	7	1
Outer Fenn FC	Village Sports Club, Hoo	1	0	0

<i>Club</i>	<i>Home Ground</i>	<i>Adult Teams</i>	<i>Youth Teams</i>	<i>Mini Teams</i>
Palmerston WMC FC	Snodhurst Bottom	1	0	0
Park FC	Knight's Place, Rochester	1	0	0
Park Lane FC	Hempstead Recreation Ground	2	0	0
Parkwood Comm. Assoc.	Luton Recreation Ground	1	0	0
Pegasus FC	Beechings Cross	1	0	0
Pegasus 81 FC	Kings Frith, Gillingham	0	3	4
Peninsula Falcons FC	Village Sports Club, Hoo	1	0	0
Pentagon FC	Luton Recreation Ground	1	0	0
Phoenix 30 FC	Luton Recreation Ground	1	0	0
Poachers Pocket FC	Luton Recreation Ground	2	0	0
Princes Park FC	Luton Recreation Ground	1	0	0
Princess Park Nemesis FC	Barnfield Playing Fields Snodhurst Bottom	2	0	0
Quested FC	Luton Recreation Ground	1	0	0
Rainham 84 FC	Barnfield Playing Fields Robert Napier School	1	7	8
Rainham Eagles FC	Beechings Cross Snodhurst Bottom	2	7	10
Rainham Kenilworth FC	Rainham Recreation Ground	1	13	4
Ravenswood FC	Knight's Place, Rochester	1	0	0
Real 60 FC	Borstal Recreation Ground	1	6	10
Real Knights FC	Knight's Place, Rochester	1	0	0
Red Dog FC	Village Sports Club, Hoo	1	0	0
Rifleman FC	Barnfield Playing Fields	1	0	0
Riverside FC	Deangate Ridge	1	0	0
Riverview Rangers FC	Luton Recreation Ground	1	0	0
Rochester FC	Thomas Aveling School	0	5	3
Rochester Rangers FC	Wainscott Recreation Ground	0	1	0
Royal Princes Park FC	Medway Community College	0	2	0
Scorpions FC	Beechings Way Recn. Ground Beechings Cross	2	0	0
Sovereign Sports FC	Anchorians Sports Ground	1	0	0
Spartac FC	Beechings Cross Hempstead Recreation Ground	2	0	0
Sportsman FC	Knight's Place, Rochester	1	0	0
Star Sports FC	Rainham Recreation Ground	1	0	0
Stirling 2000 FC	Rainham Recreation Ground	1	0	0
Strood FC	Knight's Place, Rochester	1	0	0
Strood 87 FC	Wainscott Recreation Ground	0	3	1
Strood Crusaders FC	Knight's Place, Rochester	1	0	0
Strood United FC	Elaine Primary School, Strood	0	2	6
Swallows FC	Greenacre School, Chatham	0	7	4
Swallow Rise FC	Hook Meadow, Chatham	1	0	0
Tekkers FC	Lordswood Sports & Social Club	1	0	0
Tempest FC	Luton Recreation Ground	1	0	0
Thamesview Youth FC	Rainham Mark Grammar School	0	7	12
The Delce FC	Priestfields Recreation Ground	1	0	0
The Dewdrop FC	Rainham Recreation Ground Luton Recreation Ground	2	0	0
The Huntsman FC	Snodhurst Bottom	1	0	0
The Star Gillingham FC	Knight's Place, Rochester	1	0	0

<i>Club</i>	<i>Home Ground</i>	<i>Adult Teams</i>	<i>Youth Teams</i>	<i>Mini Teams</i>
The Weston Arms	APCM Recreation Ground	1	0	0
Three Crutches FC	Knight's Place, Rochester	1	0	0
Twydall Labour Club FC	Rainham Recreation Ground	1	0	0
United Services FC	Rainham Recreation Ground	1	0	0
United Services Rainham FC	Beechings Way Recn. Ground	1	0	0
Universities at Medway SA	Lordswood Sports & Soc. Club	5	0	0
VCS Sports FC	Village Sports Club, Hoo	1	0	0
Wainscott Arrows FC	APCM Recreation Ground	1	0	0
Walderslade FC	Snodhurst Bottom	2	5	1
White Horse Borstal FC	Borstal Recreation Ground	2	0	0
Who'd Ha' Thought it Lions FC	Priestfields Recreation Ground	1	0	0
Wigmore Youth FC	Kings Frith, Gillingham	0	9	14
Windermere Wanderers FC	Hempstead Recreation Ground	1	0	0
Woodpecker HI FC	Hoo Village Institute	0	4	2
TOTAL	-	164	171	114

7.10 **Sub-areas:** The number of teams in each sub-area is as follows:

a) **Total teams:** The geographical distribution of teams by sub-area is as follows:

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Adult Teams</i>	<i>Youth Teams</i>	<i>Mini Teams</i>
Chatham	56	48	38
Gillingham	33	44	24
Rainham	18	29	24
Rochester	9	17	11
Strood and Rural	48	33	17

b) **Per capita:** The number of teams per capita in each sub-area is as follows:

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Adult Teams</i>	<i>Youth Teams</i>	<i>Mini Teams</i>
Chatham	1: 1,247	1: 1,455	1: 1,838
Gillingham	1: 1,944	1: 1,458	1: 2,674
Rainham	1: 1,938	1: 1,203	1: 1,453
Rochester	1: 3,771	1: 1,996	1: 3,085
Strood and Rural	1: 1,272	1: 1,850	1: 3,592
Medway	1: 1,609	1: 1,543	1: 2,315

Demand for cricket

7.11 **Introduction:** The data on demand for cricket in Medway is detailed below. It was compiled from the England and Wales Cricket Board's 'Play Cricket' website.

7.12 **Clubmark:** Of the nine cricket clubs in Medway, seven (77.8%) have achieved the ECB's quality assured Club Mark. 73.8% of junior teams are part of a Club Mark club. Four clubs (Frindsbury, Higham and Mockbeggar, Rainham and Sherwood) are designated by the ECB as 'Focus Clubs' and therefore work with schools and the local community to develop the game in their respective localities.

7.13 **Competitions:** Cricket teams in Medway play primarily in the Kent Regional League, the Medway Area Sunday league and the Medway Youth League.

7.14 **Imported/exported demand:** Some players for clubs based in Medway are drawn from outside the area, however the effect is broadly neutral because some Medway-based players also play for teams in neighbouring areas.

7.15 **Cricket clubs:** The following clubs and teams currently play in the study area.

<i>Club</i>	<i>Home Ground</i>	<i>Adult Teams</i>	<i>Junior Teams</i>
Borstal Cricket Club	Brambletrees, Borstal	7	7
Clarion Cricket Club	<i>Away fixtures only</i>	1	0
Frindsbury Cricket Club	Frog's Island, Upnor	6	4
High Halstow Cricket Club	Rayner's Meadow, High Halstow	7	7
Higham & Mockbeggar CC	Ham River Hill, Cliffe Woods	2	5
Holcombe and Bluebell Hill CC	<i>Bluebell Hill Cricket Club</i> Holcombe Sports Club	4	5
Lordswood Cricket Club	Lordswood Sports & Soc. Club	6	5
Luton Village Cricket Club	Royal Engineers Ground, Gillingham	1	0
Old Williamsons CC	Sir Joseph Williamson's School	3	3
Rainham Cricket Club	Berengrave Park, Rainham <i>Bobbing Court & Lower Halstow CC</i> <i>Holywell Meadow, Upchurch</i>	8	8
Sherwood Cricket Club	Sherwood Cricket Ground, Rochester Kings School, Rochester (Alps) Thomas Aveling School	6	6
TOTAL	-	51	50

7.16 **Sub-areas:** The number of teams in each sub-area is as follows:

a) **Total teams:** The geographical distribution of teams by sub-area is as follows:

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Adult Teams</i>	<i>Junior Teams</i>
Chatham	6	5
Gillingham	1	0
Rainham	8	8
Rochester	21	21
Strood and Rural	15	16

b) **Per capita:** The number of teams per capita in each sub-area is as follows:

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Adult Teams</i>	<i>Junior Teams</i>
Chatham	1: 11,642	1: 13,970
Gillingham	1: 64,165	-
Rainham	1: 4,361	1: 4,361
Rochester	1: 1,616	1: 1,616
Strood and Rural	1: 4,070	1: 3,816
Medway	1: 5,033	1: 5,134

Demand for rugby union

7.17 **Introduction:** The data on demand for rugby union in Medway is detailed below. It was compiled from the Kent Rugby Union and individual rugby club websites.

7.18 **Competitions:** Rugby teams in the study area play in a variety of leagues in the RFU 'pyramid' system and also in Kent Cup competitions.

7.19 **Rugby union clubs:** The following clubs and teams currently play in the study area.

<i>Club</i>	<i>Home Ground</i>	<i>Adult Teams</i>	<i>Youth Teams</i>	<i>Mini Teams</i>
Gillingham Anchorians RFC	Anchorians Club, Gillingham	3	0	0
Lordswood Rugby Club	Lordswood Sports & Social Club	3	0	0
Medway Rugby Club	Priestfield Recreation Ground	3	5	7
Old Williamsons RFC	Sir Joseph Williamson's School	2	5	0
TOTAL	-	11	10	7

7.20 **Sub-areas:** The number of teams in each sub-area is as follows:

a) **Total teams:** The geographical distribution of teams by sub-area is as follows:

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Adult Teams</i>	<i>Junior Teams</i>	<i>Mini Teams</i>
Chatham	3	0	0
Gillingham	3	0	0
Rainham	0	0	0
Rochester	5	10	7
Strood and Rural	0	0	0

b) **Per capita:** The number of teams per capita in each sub-area is as follows:

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Adult Teams</i>	<i>Junior Teams</i>	<i>Mini-Teams</i>
Chatham	1: 23,284	-	-
Gillingham	1: 21,388	-	-
Rainham	-	-	-
Rochester	1: 6,787	1: 3,394	1: 4,848
Strood and Rural	-	-	-
Medway	1: 23,991	1: 26,390	1: 37,700

Demand for rugby league

7.21 **Introduction:** The data on demand for rugby league is detailed below. It was compiled from the Medway Dragons Rugby League Club website.

7.22 **Rugby league club:** Medway Dragons is the only rugby league club in Medway. It has achieved the Clubmark award and runs the following teams:

<i>Club</i>	<i>Home Ground</i>	<i>Adult Teams</i>	<i>Youth Teams</i>	<i>Mini Teams</i>
Medway Dragons RLC	Garrison Stadium, Gillingham Medway Park	4	6	3

7.23 **Teams per capita:** One of the adult teams is a ladies team as are two of the youth teams. The club also runs veterans and wheelchair rugby league teams.

Demand for Hockey

7.24 **Introduction:** The data on demand for hockey in Medway is detailed below. It was compiled from the Kent Hockey Association and individual hockey club websites.

7.25 **Hockey clubs:** The following clubs and teams currently play in the study area.

<i>Club</i>	<i>Home Ground</i>	<i>Adult Teams</i>	<i>Youth Teams</i>
Gillingham Anchorians HC	Anchorians Club, Gillingham	10	0
Holcombe Hockey Club	Holcombe Sports Club, Rochester	22	8
Old Williamsons HC	Sir Joseph Williamson's School	7	2
TOTAL	-	39	10

7.26 **Sub-areas:** The number of teams in each sub-area is as follows:

c) **Total teams:** The geographical distribution of teams by sub-area is as follows:

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Adult Teams</i>	<i>Youth Teams</i>
Chatham	0	0
Gillingham	10	0
Rainham	0	0
Rochester	29	10
Strood and Rural	0	0

d) **Per capita:** The number of teams per capita in each sub-area is as follows:

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Adult Teams</i>	<i>Youth Teams</i>
Chatham	-	-
Gillingham	1: 6,417	-
Rainham	-	-
Rochester	1: 1,170	1: 3,394
Strood and Rural	-	-
Medway	1: 6,767	1: 26,390

Demand for Athletics

7.27 **Introduction:** Medway and Maidstone Athletics Club and Medway Phoenix Athletics Club are the two specialist athletics clubs in Medway.

a) Medway and Maidstone AC operates from the Medway Park track in Gillingham and the Sutton Valance School track in Maidstone, so demand is spread across both areas. The club has around 300 members and runs teams at age groups from Young Athletes to veterans.

b) Medway Phoenix is a smaller club and is based at the Deangate Ridge track.

Demand for Bowls

7.28 **Introduction:** The data on demand for club-based bowls in Medway is detailed below. It was compiled from the Kent Bowling Association and individual bowls club websites.

7.29 **Bowls clubs:** The following eight clubs are based in the study area.

<i>Club</i>	<i>Home Green</i>
Borstal Bowls Club	Brambletrees, Wouldham Road, Borstal
Chatham Bowls Club	Palmerston Road, Chatham
Civil Service (Chatham) Bowls Club	Watling Street, Off Will Adams Way, Gillingham
Cliffe Bowls Club	APCM Recreation Ground, Cliffe
GEC Bowls Club	Bells Lane, Hoo
Palm Cottage Bowls Club	Canterbury Street, Gillingham
Rochester Clarence Bowls Club	Borstal Road, Rochester
Sturdee Gillingham Bowls Club	Sturdee Avenue, Gillingham

7.30 **Sub-area analysis:** The number of bowls clubs per capita by sub-area in Medway is as follows:

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Clubs</i>	<i>Clubs per capita</i>
Chatham	1	1: 67,866
Gillingham	2	1: 31,171
Rainham	1	1: 33,899
Rochester	2	1: 16,486
Strood and Rural	2	1: 29,661
Medway	8	1: 32,988

Demand for Tennis

7.31 **Introduction:** The data on demand for club-based tennis in Medway is detailed below. It was compiled from the Lawn Tennis Association and individual tennis club websites.

7.32 **Tennis clubs:** The following clubs are based in the study area.

<i>Club</i>	<i>Home Courts</i>
Avenue Tennis Club	Glebe Road, Gillingham
City Tennis Club	Cornwall Road, Rochester
Frindsbury Tennis Club	Frogs Island, Upnor

7.33 **Casual play:** In addition to club-based tennis, there are a number of courts offering opportunities for casual ‘pay-and-play’ tennis.

Demand for Golf

7.34 **Introduction:** The data on club-based demand for golf in Medway is detailed below. It was compiled from the English Golf Union and individual club websites.

7.35 **Golf clubs:** The following clubs are based in the study area.

<i>Club</i>	<i>Course</i>
Gillingham Golf Club	Woodlands Road, Gillingham
Deangate Ridge	Dux Court Road,
Allhallows Golf Course	Avery Way, Allhallows

- 7.36 **Casual play:** In addition to club-based golf, all three courses offer opportunities for casual ‘pay-and-play’ golf.

Team equivalents for the pitch sports

- 7.37 **Introduction:** In addition to the demand created by teams requiring access to pitches to play competitive fixtures, the impact on overall demand from training use can be assessed by calculating the ‘team equivalents’ that such usage generates. The following information was derived from the survey of local sports clubs.
- 7.38 **Adult football:** The responding clubs typically train on average once a week in addition to their competitive fixtures. Because of the lack of floodlights at most grass pitches in Medway, the facilities used for midweek evening training include sports halls, synthetic turf pitches and multi-use games areas. Training on grass frequently involves the use of training ‘grids’ rather than the pitches themselves. As a result, the survey responses suggest that the additional ‘team equivalents’ generated by training usage on grass pitches equates to an estimated 24 teams (15% of the training volume), concentrated in the midweek period. Whilst this does not impact directly upon peak demand periods, the wear and tear on some of the lower quality pitches does affect their carrying capacity.
- 7.39 **Youth football:** Youth teams typically train an average of once a week and use a similar mix of facilities. The additional ‘team equivalents’ generated by training usage on grass pitches therefore equates to an estimated 26 teams (15% of the training volume), concentrated in the midweek period.
- 7.40 **Mini-soccer:** Mini-soccer teams typically train an average once a week and use a similar mix of facilities. However, because of the nature of the mini-game and the small size of the players, wear and tear on grass pitches is a less significant factor. The additional ‘team equivalents’ generated by training usage on grass pitches therefore equates to an estimated 12 teams (10% of the training volume), concentrated in the midweek period.
- 7.41 **Cricket:** Teams typically train twice a week during the cricket season, but this has a negligible effect on pitches because the training involves the use of nets on the outfield or synthetic turf wickets. As a result, the additional ‘team equivalents’ generated by training usage on match wickets is zero.
- 7.42 **Rugby union and league:** The local rugby clubs all have access to floodlit pitches and adult and junior teams typically train once a week on midweek evenings. The additional ‘team equivalents’ generated by training usage on grass pitches therefore equates to an estimated 15 adult teams and 16 junior teams (100% of the training volume), concentrated in the midweek period.
- 7.43 **Hockey:** The local hockey clubs all have access to floodlit synthetic turf pitches and adult and junior teams typically train once a week. The additional ‘team equivalents’ generated by training usage on synthetic turf pitches equates to an estimated 39 adult teams and 10 junior teams (100% of the training volume), concentrated in the midweek period.

7.44 **Summary:** Team equivalents in Medway are therefore as follows:

<i>Sport</i>	<i>Actual teams</i>	<i>Additional team equivalents</i>	<i>Total team equivalents</i>
Adult football	163	24	187
Youth football	173	26	199
Mini-soccer	115	12	127
Cricket	103	0	103
Adult rugby	15	15	30
Junior rugby	16	16	32
Adult hockey	39	39	78
Junior hockey	10	10	20

The implications for playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities

7.45 Demand for pitches and outdoor sports facilities in Medway is as follows:

- a) **Adult football:** There are 187 teams or team equivalents in Medway. The proportion of the adult population plays football locally is above the regional and national averages. Sub-area satisfied demand is relatively even across the study area, although is lowest by far in the Rochester sub-area.
- b) **Youth football:** There are 199 teams or team equivalents in the study area. Sub-area satisfied demand is relatively consistent across Medway, although is significantly lower than the average in the Rochester sub-area.
- c) **Mini-soccer:** There are 127 teams or team equivalents in Medway. There are wide variations in sub-area satisfied demand across the study area, with the highest number of teams per capita in Rainham and lowest in Strood and Rural.
- d) **Cricket:** There are 51 adult and 50 junior teams in Medway. Sub-area satisfied demand is highest in Rochester and lowest in Gillingham.
- e) **Rugby Union:** There are 22 adult, 20 junior and 7 mini rugby teams or team equivalents in Medway.
- f) **Rugby League:** The Medway Dragons club meets local demand and provides teams for all age groups, both genders and disabled players.
- g) **Hockey:** There are 78 adult and 20 junior teams or team equivalents in Medway.
- h) **Athletics:** The Medway and Maidstone club meets demand in both districts for track and field athletics.
- i) **Bowls:** There are eight bowls clubs in Medway, with a relatively even distribution across the five sub-areas, although per capita provision in Chatham is more than twice as sparse as the study area average.
- j) **Tennis:** Three clubs meet needs for competitive play, supplemented by parks and schools courts that serve the needs of casual players.
- k) **Golf:** Three clubs meet needs for competitive play and all allow pay-and-play usage by non-members.

VIII. PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES SUPPLY

Introduction

8.1 This section contains an analysis of the supply of playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities provision in Medway.

Playing pitches

8.2 **Definition:** The pitches included in the analysis are defined as natural or artificial turf areas permanently laid out with regulation markings, with the following dimensions for club-level play as specified in Sport England's 'Comparative Sizes of Sports Pitches and Courts' (2011) and are used for competitive play.

<i>Pitch Type</i>	<i>Pitch length</i>	<i>Pitch width</i>	<i>Size including run-offs</i>
Adult football	Max. 120m/Min. 90m	Max. 90m/Min. 45.5m	Max. 126m x 96m
Youth football	Max. 100.6m/Min. 68.25m	Max. 64m/Min. 42m	Max. 106.6m x 70m
Mini-soccer	Max. 45.75m/Min. 27.45m	Max. 27.45m/Min. 18.3m	Max. 54.9m x 36.6m
Adult cricket	20.12m	Max. 36.6m/Min. 3.05m	111.56m x 106.69m
Junior cricket	19.2m	Max. 27.45m/Min. 3.05m	92.36m x 88.41m
Adult rugby	Max. 144m	Max. 70m	Max. 154m x 80m
Mini-rugby	Max. 70m	Max. 43m/Min. 30m	Max. 80m x 53m
ATP	91.4m	56m	101.4m x 63m

8.3 **Security of access:** A key consideration in assessing pitch and facility supply is the extent to which provision is available for unrestricted community use and subject to formalised access arrangements that cannot easily be rescinded. Sport England has produced a formal classification for access to facilities which is set out below.

<i>Category</i>	<i>Definition</i>	<i>Supplementary information</i>
A(i)	Secured community pitches	Facilities in local authority or other public ownership.
A(ii)		Facilities in the voluntary, private or commercial sector which are open to members of the public.*
A(iii)		Facilities on education sites which are available for use by the public through formal community use agreements.
B	Used by community but not secured	Facilities not included above, that are nevertheless available for community use, e.g. school facilities without formal user arrangements.
C	Not open for community use	Facilities at establishments which are not, as a matter of policy or practice, available for community use.

* Where there is a charge, this must be reasonable and affordable for the local community.

8.4 **Quantitative analysis:** Details of all pitches with community access in Medway are listed below, with the access category recorded for each. A full list by sub-area and with site addresses is contained in the appendix.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Access category</i>	<i>Adult football</i>	<i>Youth football</i>	<i>Mini-soccer</i>	<i>Cricket</i>	<i>Rugby</i>	<i>STP</i>
Anchorians Hockey Club	A(ii)	-	-	-	-	-	1
APCM Recreation Ground	A(i)	1	1	-	-	-	-
Balfour Recreation Ground	A(i)	-	1	-	-	-	-
Barnfield Playing Fields	A(i)	3	1	-	-	-	-

<i>Site</i>	<i>Access category</i>	<i>Adult football</i>	<i>Youth football</i>	<i>Mini-soccer</i>	<i>Cricket</i>	<i>Rugby</i>	<i>STP</i>
Beechings Cross	A(i)	4	-	-	-	-	-
Beechings Way Recreation Ground	A(i)	2	-	-	-	-	-
Berengrave Park	A(i)	-	-	-	1	-	-
Bishop of Rochester Academy	B	2	-	-	-	1	-
Borstal Recreation Ground	A(i)	3	3	-	-	-	-
Brambletrees	A(ii)	-	-	1	1	-	-
Chatham Grammar School for Girls	B	1	-	-	-	-	-
Cliffe Woods Primary School	B	1	1	2	-	-	-
Cliffe Woods Recreation Ground	A(i)	2	2	-	-	-	-
Cozenton Park	A(i)	1	-	1	-	-	-
Cuxton Recreation Ground	A(i)	1	-	-	-	-	-
Deangate Ridge	A(i)	3	-	-	-	-	-
Elaine Primary School	B	-	1	3	-	-	-
Featherby Junior School	B	-	1	1	-	-	-
Ferry Meadow	A(i)	1	-	-	-	-	-
4-4-2 Sports and Social Club	A(ii)	1	-	-	-	-	-
Frindsbury Cricket Club	A(ii)	-	-	-	1	-	-
Garrison Stadium and Grounds	B	2	-	-	-	1	1
Gillingham Football Club	A(ii)	1	-	-	-	-	-
Great Lines Heritage Park	A(i)	4	-	-	-	-	-
Greenacre School	B	4	3	-	-	1	1
Hempstead Recreation Ground	A(i)	2	1	-	-	-	-
Higham & Mockbeggar CC	A(ii)	-	-	-	1	-	-
Hilltop Primary School	B	-	1	-	-	-	-
Holcombe Hockey & Sports Club	A(ii)	1	1	-	1	1	2
Hoo Village Institute	A(ii)	1	2	1	-	-	-
Hook Meadow	A(i)	1	1	-	-	-	-
Horstead Junior School	B	-	1	-	-	-	-
Howard School	B	1	1	-	-	-	-
Hundred of Hoo School	A(iii)	4	2	-	-	2	1
Kings Frith	A(i)	6	6	-	-	-	-
Kings School, Rochester (Alps)	B	-	-	-	1	3	-
Kings School, Rochester (Paddocks)	B	-	-	-	1	-	-
Knight's Place	A(i)	4	-	-	1	-	-
Lordswood Sports & Social Club	A(ii)	2	1	2	2	2	-
Luton Recreation Ground	A(i)	4	1	-	1	-	-
Maidstone Road Sports Ground	A(i)	1	-	-	-	-	-
Medway Park	A(i)	2	-	-	-	-	-
New Brompton College	B	4	1	1	-	-	-
Priestfield Recreation Ground	A(i)	2	-	-	-	4	-
Rainham Mark Grammar School	B	3	1	-	1	-	-
Rainham Recreation Ground	A(i)	2	-	-	-	-	-
Rainham School for Girls	B	-	1	-	-	-	-
Rayners Meadow	A(i)	-	-	-	1	-	-
Robert Napier School	B	2	-	3	-	1	-
Rochester Grammar Sch. for Girls	B	1	-	-	-	-	-
Royal Engineers Sports Ground	B	1	-	-	1	1	-
Ryetop Playing Fields	A(i)	1	1	-	-	-	-
St. James's Park	A(ii)	1	-	-	-	-	-
St. Thomas of Canterbury School	B	-	-	2	-	-	-
Seaview Meadows	A(ii)	-	1	1	-	-	-

<i>Site</i>	<i>Access category</i>	<i>Adult football</i>	<i>Youth football</i>	<i>Mini-soccer</i>	<i>Cricket</i>	<i>Rugby</i>	<i>STP</i>
Sherwin Knight School	B	-	1	-	-	-	-
Sherwood Cricket Club	A(ii)	-	-	-	1	-	-
Shorts Way Sports Ground	A(i)	2	-	-	-	-	-
Sir Joseph Williamson's School	B	1	-	-	2	4	1
Snodhurst Bottom	A(i)	4	-	-	-	-	-
Spinnens Acre School	B	-	-	2	-	-	-
Star Meadow Sports Club	A(ii)	1	1	-	-	-	-
The Village CSC, Hoo	A(ii)	2	1	1	1	-	-
Thomas Aveling School	B	2	-	1	1	-	1
Twydall Primary School	B	-	2	-	-	-	-
Upper Halling Recreation Ground	A(i)	-	1	-	-	-	-
Wainscott Primary School	B	-	1	1	-	-	-
Wainscott Recreation Ground	A(i)	1	1	-	-	-	-
Watling Street Recreation Ground	A(i)	2	1	-	-	3	-
Winget Sports Ground	A(i)	-	1	-	-	-	-
Woodlands Primary School	B	-	1	1	-	-	-
Wouldham Recreation Ground	A(i)	1	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	-	98	48	25	19	24	8

8.5 **Synthetic turf pitches:** Details of the synthetic turf pitches in Medway are as follows:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Pitch surface</i>
Greenacre School	Chatham	'3G'
Anchorians Hockey Club	Gillingham	Sand-filled
Garrison Stadium	Gillingham	Sand-filled
Holcombe Sports Club	Rochester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sand-filled • Water-based
Sir Joseph Williamson's School	Rochester	Sand-filled
Thomas Aveling School	Rochester	Sand-filled
Hundred of Hoo School	Strood and Rural	Sand-filled

8.6 **Supplementary provision:** In addition to the eight full-sized synthetic turf pitches in Medway, there are a number of smaller synthetic turf surfaced facilities used for small-sided football play and training, which supplement the pitches used for competitive play:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Pitches provided</i>
Lordswood Sports & Social Club	Chatham	60m x 30m '3G' surface
Play Football.net	Rainham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two 60m x 30m '3G' surfaces • Six 40m x 20m '3G' surfaces
Kicks Soccer Centre (Strood Sports Centre)	Strood and Rural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One 60m x 30m '3G' surface • Six 40m x 20m '3G' surfaces
Star Meadow Sports Club	Gillingham	60m x 30m '3G' surface
Woodlands Primary School	Gillingham	60m x 40m '3G' surface

8.7 **Per capita provision:** The numbers of each pitch per capita in Medway are below.

- a) **Natural turf pitches:** Figures for neighbouring Gravesham (the only neighbouring area for which data is available) are listed for comparison and show that in all cases levels of provision are all lower in Medway:

<i>Pitch type</i>	<i>Medway</i>	<i>Gravesham</i>
Adult football	1: 2,693	1: 2,333
Youth football	1: 5,498	1: 3,920
Mini-soccer	1: 10,556	1: 9,800
Cricket	1: 13,889	1: 4,900
Rugby	1: 10,996	1: 6,533

b) **Synthetic turf pitches:** Figures for all neighbouring areas are listed for comparison and show that levels of provision are the best in Medway:

<i>Local authority</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>No. pitches</i>	<i>Pitches/person</i>
Medway	263,900	8	1: 32,988
Swale	133,400	4	1: 33,350
Maidstone	155,200	4	1: 38,800
<i>Median</i>	-	3.8	<i>1: 53,028</i>
Tonbridge and Malling	120,800	2	1: 60,400
Gravesham	99,600	1	1: 99,600

8.8 **Security of access:** The number and percentage of pitches in each access category in Medway is below. Almost half of all pitches are in the least secure access categories, including nearly three-quarters of mini-soccer pitches. Since community use of these (mostly school) pitches could in theory be rescinded at any time, efforts should be made to secure more formal Community Use Agreements.

<i>Pitch type</i>	<i>A(i)</i>		<i>A(ii)</i>		<i>A(iii)</i>		<i>B</i>		<i>C</i>	
	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>
Adult football	59	60.2	10	10.2	4	4.1	25	25.5	0	0.0
Youth football	22	45.8	7	14.6	2	4.2	17	35.4	0	0.0
Mini-soccer	1	4.0	6	24.0	0	0.0	18	72.0	0	0.0
Cricket pitches	4	21.1	8	42.1	0	0.0	7	36.8	0	0.0
Rugby pitches	7	29.2	3	12.5	2	9.3	12	50.0	0	0.0
ATPs	0	11.1	3	37.5	1	12.5	4	50.0	0	0.0
TOTAL	93	41.5	37	16.5	9	4.0	85	38.0	0	0.0

8.9 **Sub-area analysis:** Sub-area analysis based upon the per capita levels of pitch provision in the five sub-areas of Medway reveals the following:

- Adult football:** Per capita levels of provision are relatively consistent across the five sub-areas.
- Youth football:** Per capita levels of provision are relatively consistent in the urban sub-areas, but best in Strood and Rural.
- Mini-soccer:** Per capita levels of provision are poor in the urban sub-areas, but since many mini-soccer pitches are marked out temporarily across other pitches, with moveable goal posts and cones, pitches are likely to be undercounted.
- Cricket:** Provision varies widely across the study area, but is best in Rochester.
- Rugby:** Per capita levels of provision again very widely between sub-areas, reflecting the dispersed nature of demand from the four clubs in Medway.
- Artificial Turf Pitches:** Per capita levels of provision vary significantly around the study area average, but geographical coverage is reasonably good.

g) **All pitches:** Per capita levels of all pitches in each sub-area are all similar.

Pitch type	Chatham		Gillingham		Rochester		Rainham		Strood/Rural	
	No. pitches	Pitches/person	No. pitches	Pitches/person	No. pitches	Pitches/person	No. pitches	Pitches/person	No. pitches	Pitches/person
Adult football	24	1: 2,910	29	1: 2,213	13	1: 2,610	11	1: 2,263	21	1: 2,907
Youth football	8	1: 8,731	11	1: 5,833	5	1: 6,787	7	1: 4,984	17	1: 3,592
Mini-soccer	4	1: 17,463	6	1: 10,694	2	1: 16,968	4	1: 8,723	9	1: 6,784
Cricket pitches	3	1: 23,284	1	1: 64,165	8	1: 4,242	2	1: 17,446	5	1: 12,211
Rugby pitches	4	1: 17,463	6	1: 10,694	12	1: 2,828	0	-	2	1: 30,529
STPs	1	1: 69,851	2	1: 32,083	4	1: 8,484	0	-	1	1: 61,057
All pitches	44	1: 1,588	55	1: 1,167	44	1: 771	24	1: 1,454	55	1: 1,110

8.8 **Qualitative analysis:** The qualitative audit involved visits to all pitches in Medway:

- **Natural turf pitches:** The methodology specified by Sport England in its 'Playing Pitch Toolkit' was applied, which generated percentage scores for each aspect of each site.
- **Synthetic turf pitches:** A numerical scoring system that benchmarked each aspect of the pitches with normalised definitions of different quality criteria was applied.

8.9 **Natural turf pitches:** The criteria applied were as follows:

Factor	Definition
Grass cover	The % of grass cover on the pitch.
Grass length	Appropriate to the sport (shortest for cricket, longest for rugby).
Pitch size	Complies with recommended pitch dimensions.
Safety margins	Complies with governing body requirements.
Pitch slope	The overall gradient and cross-fall of the pitch.
Pitch evenness	The extent to which the pitch is bumpy, rutted or uneven.
Glass/stones/litter	The extent of any glass, stones or litter
Dog fouling	Any evidence of dog fouling.
Unofficial use	Any evidence of unofficial use (informal kick-about, training use etc.).
Damage to surface	Any evidence of problems such as tyre tracks, golf divots etc.
Goalposts	The extent to which posts are upright, straight, painted and not damaged.
Cricket wicket protection	The extent to which the wicket is protected when not in use.
Line markings	The extent to which line markings are clear and straight.

8.10 **Changing provision:** The criteria applied were as follows:

Rating	Definition
Overall quality	The extent to which the provision is well-maintained, clean and user friendly
Evidence of vandalism	The extent to which there is any evidence of vandalism, such as damage to doors and windows, broken glass, graffiti, fire damage etc.
Showers	Are there showers and if so how good to they appear to be?
Toilets	Are there toilets and if so how good to they appear to be?
Car parking	Presence of on-site car parking for around 20 cars. The nature of the surface.
Public transport	Links to the public transport network (a good score applies if the site is within 10 minutes walk of a bus stop or train station).
Security	The security of the provision and any evidence of break-ins.
Segregated changing	Are there self-contained changing rooms? Are there communal showers? Can male and female teams use the provision at the same time?

8.11 By Sport England's definitions, the percentages relate to the following definitions of pitch quality:

<i>Criterion</i>	<i>% Score</i>
An excellent pitch/changing facility	90%+
A good pitch/changing facility	65% - 89%
An average pitch/changing facility	55% - 64%
A below average pitch/changing facility	30% - 54%
A poor pitch/changing facility	Less than 30%

8.12 The full results of the qualitative audit are set out below.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitches %</i>	<i>Changing %</i>
Anchorians Hockey Club	76.0%	83%
APCM Recreation Ground	52.9%	63%
Balfour Recreation Ground	30.0%	-
Barnfield Playing Fields	42.9%	71%
Beechings Cross	85.7%	83%
Beechings Way Recreation Ground	40.0%	37%
Berengrave Park	83.6%	56%
Bishop of Rochester Academy	20.0%	20%
Borstal Recreation Ground	58.6%	44%
Brambletrees	68.6%	49%
Chatham Grammar School for Girls	60.0%	93%
Cliffe Woods Primary School	68.6%	85%
Cliffe Woods Recreation Ground	62.9%	61%
Cozenton Park	40.0%	-
Cuxton Recreation Ground	54.3%	66%
Deangate Ridge	40.0%	71%
Elaine Primary School	58.6%	68%
Featherby Junior School	38.6%	68%
Ferry Meadow	58.6%	-
4-4-2 Sports and Social Club	74.3%	80%
Frindsbury Cricket Club	78.2%	73%
Garrison Stadium and Grounds	78.6%	83%
Gillingham Football Club	97.1%	93%
Great Lines Heritage Park	40.0%	-
Greenacre School	60.0%	68%
Hempstead Recreation Ground	47.1%	63%
Higham & Mockbeggar CC	83.6%	59%
Hilltop Primary School	71.4%	63%
Holcombe Hockey & Sports Club	48.6%	90%
Hoo Village Institute	72.9%	61%
Hook Meadow	58.6%	-
Horstead Junior School	18.6%	66%
Howard School	58.6%	68%
Hundred of Hoo School	62.9%	80%
Kings Frith	40.0%	-
Kings School, Rochester (Alps)	81.8%	49%
Kings School, Rochester (Paddocks)	85.5%	63%
Knight's Place	58.6%	73%
Lordswood Sports & Social Club	78.6%	80%

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitches %</i>	<i>Changing %</i>
Luton Recreation Ground	65.7%	76%
Maidstone Road Sports Ground	91.4%	80%
Medway Park	78.6%	100%
New Brompton College	60.0%	63%
Priestfield Recreation Ground	61.4%	61%
Rainham Mark Grammar School	60.0%	61%
Rainham Recreation Ground	57.1%	56%
Rainham School for Girls	40.0%	61%
Rayners Meadow	81.8%	56%
Robert Napier School	62.9%	63%
Rochester Grammar School for Girls	40.0%	63%
Royal Engineers Sports Ground	90.0%	80%
Ryetop Playing Fields	40.0%	-
St. James's Park	20.0%	-
St. Thomas of Canterbury School	40.0%	66%
Seaview Meadows	20.0%	-
Sherwin Knight School	38.6%	66%
Sherwood Cricket Club	83.6%	78%
Shorts Way Sports Ground	58.6%	-
Sir Joseph Williamson's School	60.0%	78%
Snodhurst Bottom	51.4%	73%
Spinnens Acre School	38.6%	66%
Star Meadow Sports Club	80.0%	78%
The Village CSC, Hoo	71.4%	78%
Thomas Aveling School	60.0%	85%
Twydall Primary School	55.7%	61%
Upper Halling Recreation Ground	20.0%	-
Wainscott Primary School	62.9%	61%
Wainscott Recreation Ground	58.6%	-
Watling Street Recreation Ground	60.0%	56%
Winget Sports Ground	60.0%	78%
Woodlands Primary School	58.6%	85%
Wouldham Recreation Ground	38.6%	-

8.13 **Pitch quality:** The table below sets out the number of grass pitches which were rated as below 'average' and are therefore in condition that is likely to compromise the quality and quantity of play that they can accommodate:

<i>Pitch type</i>	<i>No. pitches below 'average'</i>	<i>% pitches below 'average'</i>
Adult football	35	35.7%
Youth football	18	37.5%
Mini-soccer	5	20.0%
Cricket	1	5.7%
Rugby	2	8.3%
ALL PITCHES	61	27.5%

8.14 **Changing facilities quality:** The quality of changing facilities is rated as below 'average' at 7 sites in the study area (9.7%), although a further 10 sites (13.9%) have no on-site changing provision.

8.15 **Pitch carrying capacity:** Pitch carrying capacity is the number of games per week that a natural turf pitch can accommodate. An average quality pitch in Medway can accommodate two games (and/or training sessions) per week without detriment to the quality of the pitch. Below average pitches, cater for one or fewer matches/training sessions per week due to their poor quality. For the purposes of calculating supply through the Playing Pitch Model, they effectively count as less than one pitch, because of their periodic non-availability. The table below shows the carrying capacity of each type of pitch in the Medway:

Pitch Type	Average quality or better			Below average quality			Total effective availability
	No. pitches	Multiplication factor	Effective availability	No. pitches	Multiplication factor	Effective availability	
Adult football	63	x 1	63	35	x 0.5	17.5	80.5
Youth football	30	x 1	30	18	x 0.5	9.0	39.0
Mini-soccer	20	x 1	20	5	x 0.5	2.5	22.5
Cricket pitch	18	x 1	18	1	x 0.5	0.5	18.5
Adult rugby	22	x 1	22	2	x 0.5	1.0	23.0

8.16 **Synthetic turf pitches:** The criteria assessed were as follows:

a) **Playing surface:**

Rating	Definition	Score
High Quality	An entirely flat surface with no evidence of wear.	5
Above Average	An effectively flat surface with limited evidence of wear.	4
Average	An effectively flat surface with evidence of wear.	3
Below Average	An uneven surface, with significant evidence of wear.	2
Poor quality	A very uneven surface, with extensive evidence of wear.	1

b) **Lighting of the pitch:**

Rating	Definition	Score
High Quality	Strong lighting levels over the entire playing area, with no glare, shadows or reflection to distract players.	5
Above Average	Adequate lighting levels over the entire playing area, with some slight glare, shadows or reflection to distract players.	4
Average	Adequate lighting levels over the entire playing area, with glare, shadows or reflection to distract players.	3
Below Average	Adequate lighting levels over the most of the playing area, with glare, shadows or reflection to distract players.	2
Poor quality	Poor lighting levels over the entire playing area, with glare, shadows or reflection that distracts players.	1

c) *Fencing of the pitch:*

<i>Rating</i>	<i>Definition</i>	<i>Score</i>
High Quality	Playing area fully enclosed by a high surrounding fence in good repair, with lockable gate and perimeter rebound boards.	5
Above Average	Playing area fully enclosed by a surrounding fence in reasonable repair, with a gate and perimeter rebound boards.	4
Average	Playing area mostly enclosed by a surrounding fence in reasonable repair, with perimeter rebound boards.	3
Below Average	Playing area mostly enclosed by a surrounding fence in poor repair, with no perimeter rebound boards.	2
Poor quality	No perimeter fence	1

d) *Disabled access:*

<i>Rating</i>	<i>Definition</i>	<i>Score</i>
High Quality	Full disabled access to the pitch, including adequate width access gates and a level or ramped paved path to the changing facilities.	5
Above Average	Full disabled access to the pitch, including adequate width access gates and a paved path to the changing facilities.	4
Average	Full disabled access to the pitch, including adequate width access gates but no dedicated path to the changing facilities.	3
Below Average	Limited disabled access to the pitch due to adequate width access gates and no dedicated path to the changing facilities.	2
Poor quality	No disabled access to the pitch because access gate width is too narrow, steps up to the track and no dedicated path to the changing facilities.	1

e) *Car parking and general access:* Presence/absence of:

- Dedicated car parking.
- Number of spaces meets Sport England standards.
- Dedicated spaces for mums/toddlers and disabled.
- Good signposting.
- Adequate lighting levels over the whole area.

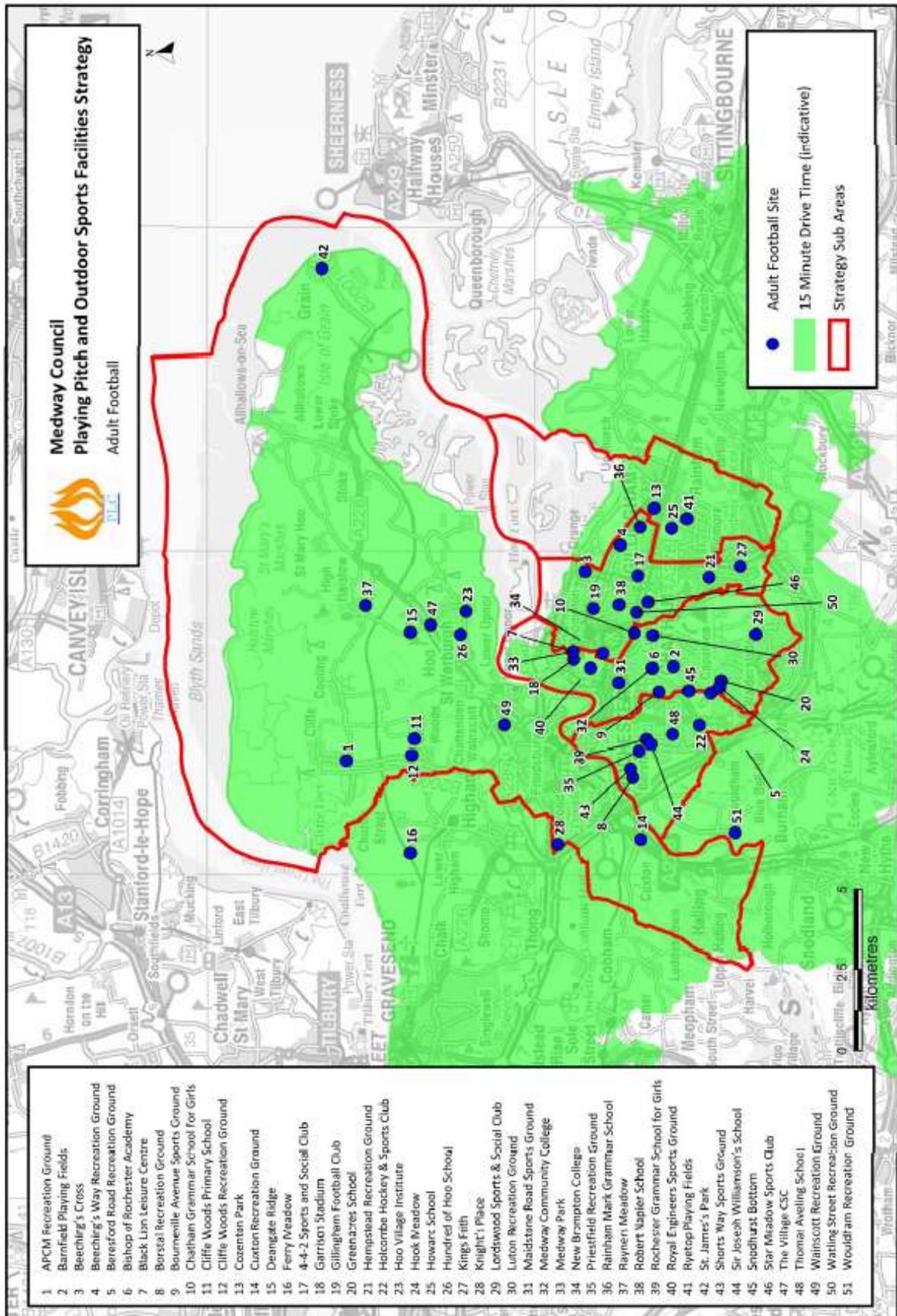
<i>Rating</i>	<i>Definition</i>	<i>Score</i>
High Quality	Complies with all five of the criteria	5
Above Average	Complies with four of the criteria	4
Average	Complies with three of the criteria	3
Below Average	Complies with two of the criteria	2
Poor quality	Complies with one or none of the criteria	1

8.17 The full results of the audit are set out below and show that all aspects of all facilities are currently rated as 'average' or better.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Playing surface</i>	<i>Lighting</i>	<i>Fencing</i>	<i>Disabled</i>	<i>Access</i>	<i>Overall %</i>
Anchorians HC	3	4	4	3	4	76%
Garrison Sports Ground	5	5	5	4	3	84%
Greenacre Girls School	5	3	5	3	3	64%
Holcombe Sports Club	5	5	5	5	5	92%
Hundred of Hoo School	4	5	4	3	3	76%
Sir Joseph Williamson	4	5	5	3	3	84%
Thomas Aveling School	5	-	5	5	5	64%

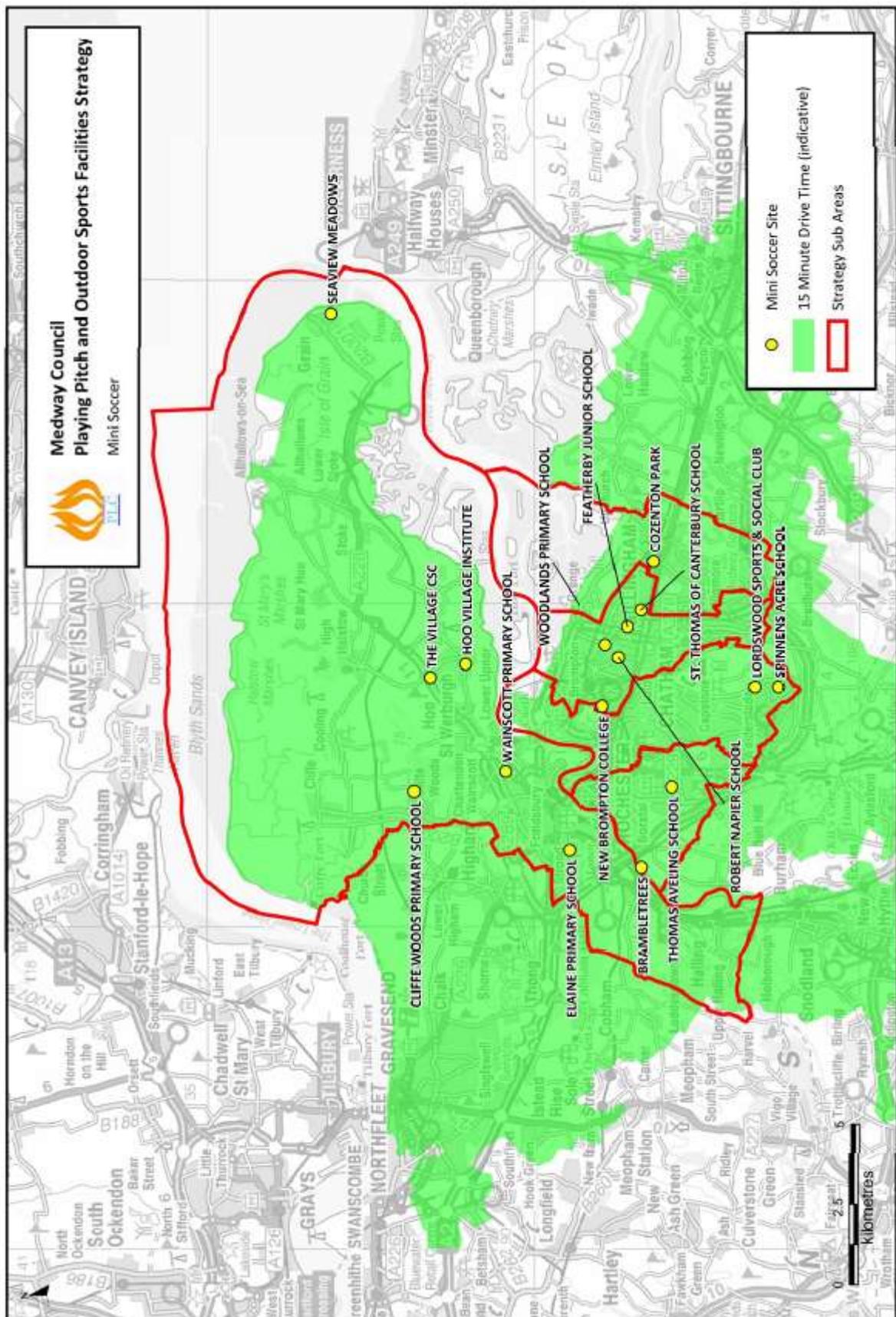
- 8.18 Whilst playing surfaces are all above ‘average’, two pitches (Sir Joseph Williamson School and one of the pitches at Holcombe Sports Club) were installed in 1999 and 2003 respectively and are therefore likely to need resurfacing in the near future.
- 8.19 **Accessibility:** Accessibility is assessed in relation to ‘effective catchments’, which are the times/distances that participants are prepared to travel to reach different types of pitches and their favoured means of transport. Effective catchments in Medway were defined by the clubs survey and the catchments from which members are drawn and are represented on the maps below by applying travel time software that takes account of the presence and quality of road transport links and any physical barriers impeding travel.
- a) Football pitch users typically travel by car and around 90% of them have a journey time of 15 minutes or less.
 - b) Cricket pitch users typically travel by car and around 90% of them have a journey time of 15 minutes or less.
 - c) Rugby pitch users typically travel by car and around 90% of them have a journey time of 20 minutes or less.
 - d) Synthetic pitch users typically travel by car and around 90% of them have a journey time of 20 minutes or less.

8.20 *Patterns of provision of adult football pitches:* A map showing adult football pitches in Medway, with 15 minute drive time catchments is below. The map shows that all parts of the study area are within the catchment of at least one pitch.

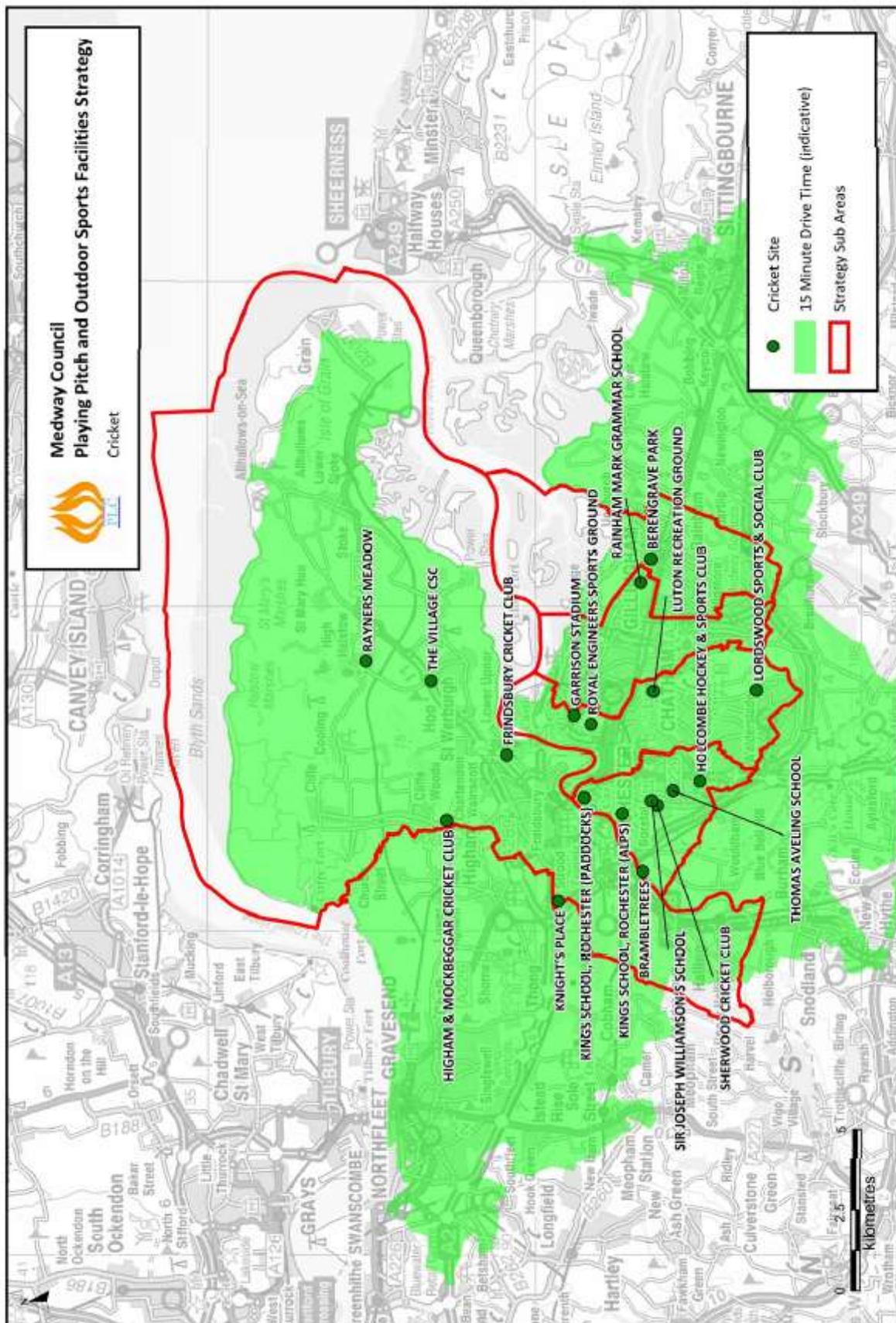


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8.22 *Patterns of provision of mini-soccer pitches:* A map showing the location of mini-soccer pitches in Medway, with 15 minute drive time catchments is below. The map shows that with the exception of a small area around Allhallows-on-Sea, all parts of the study area are within the catchment of at least one pitch.

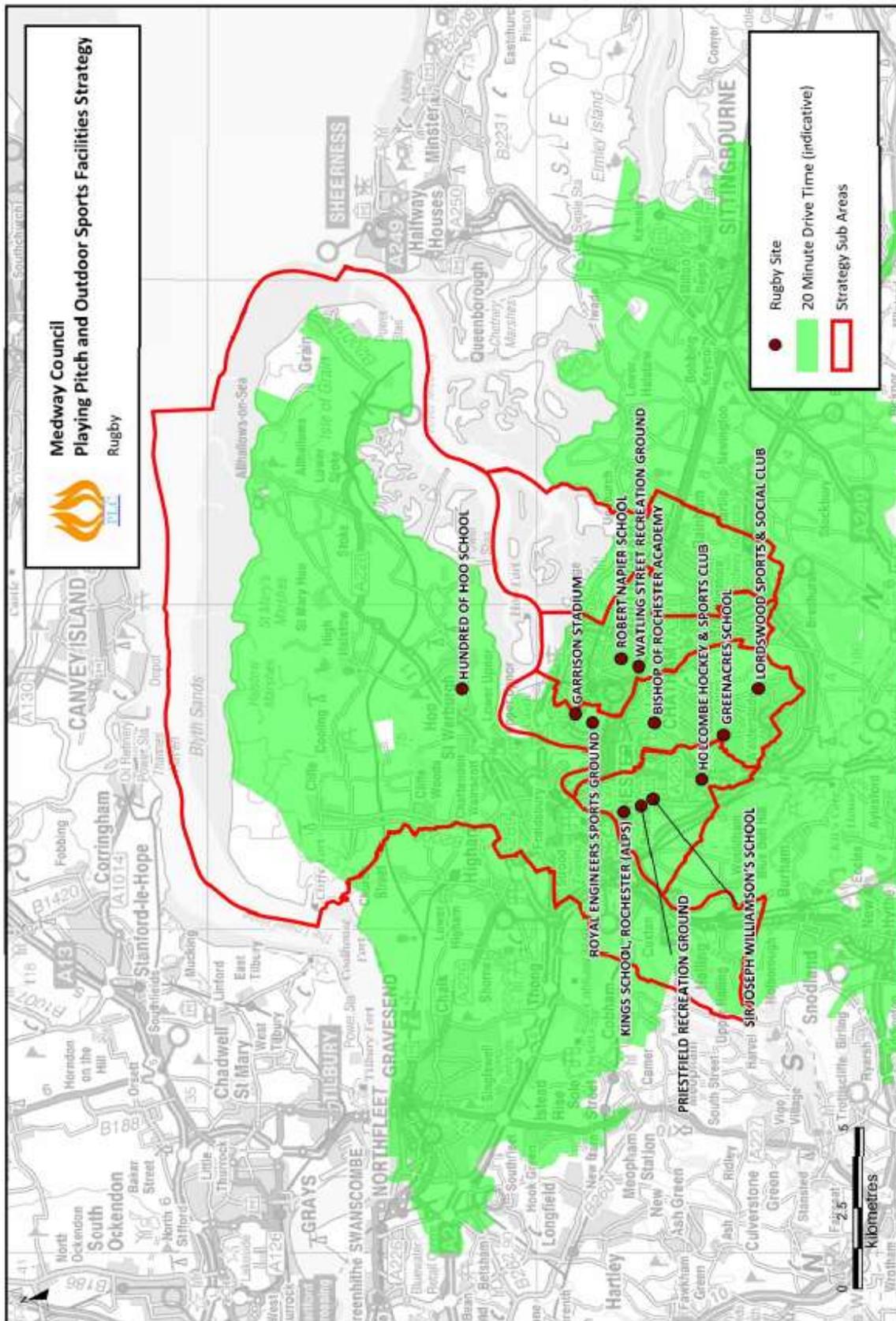


8.23 **Patterns of provision of cricket pitches:** A map showing the location of cricket pitches in Medway, with 15 minute drive time catchments is below. The map shows that with the exception of small areas around Grain and Upper Halling, all parts of the study area are within the catchment of at least one pitch.

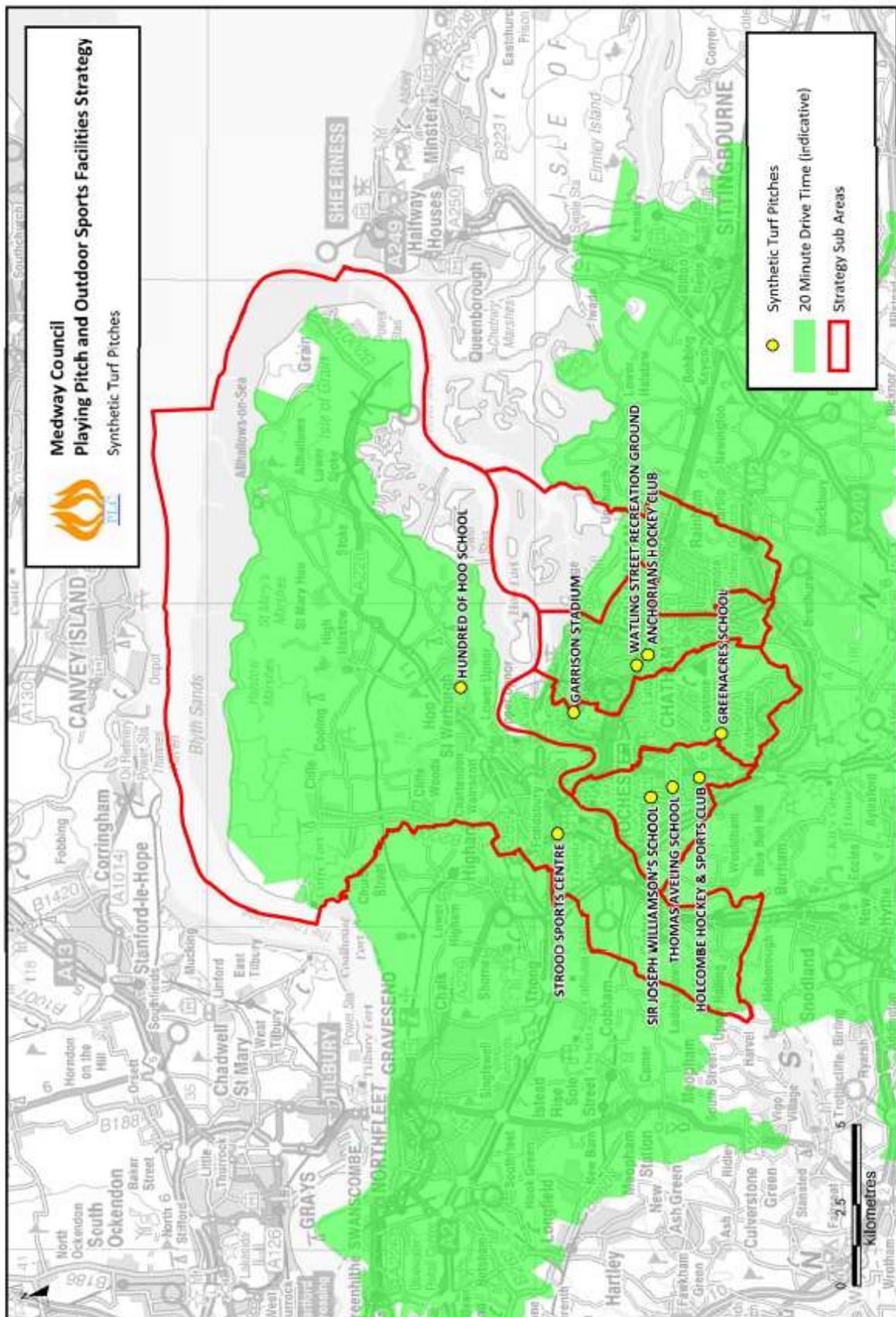


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8.24 **Patterns of provision of rugby pitches:** A map showing the location of rugby pitches in Medway, with 20 minute drive time catchments is below. The map shows that with the exception of small areas around Grain, north of Cliffe, Hoo St. Werbergh and Upper Halling, all parts of the study area are within the catchment of at least one pitch.



8.25 *Patterns of provision of synthetic turf pitches:* A map showing synthetic turf pitches in Medway, with 20 minute drive time catchments is below. The map shows that with the exception of small areas around Grain and north of Cliffe, all parts of the study area are within the catchment of at least one pitch.



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Athletics tracks

8.26 **Definition:** Synthetic athletics tracks comprise all-weather, 400m tracks, with a minimum of six lanes and full field event facilities.

8.27 **Quantitative analysis:** Tracks in Medway and neighbouring areas are as follows:

- a) **Provision in Medway:** There are two synthetic athletics track in the study area, equivalent to one facility per 128,350 people:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>No. lanes</i>
Medway Park	Gillingham	8
Deangate Ridge	Strood and Rural	6

- b) **Provision in neighbouring areas:** Athletics track provision in neighbouring local authorities is tabulated below for benchmarking purposes. Medway has the second highest per capita rate of provision:

<i>Local authority</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>No. tracks</i>	<i>Tracks/person</i>
Tonbridge and Malling	120,800	1	1: 120,800
Medway	263,900	2	1: 131,950
Maidstone	155,200	1	1: 155,200
Gravesham	99,600	-	-
Swale	133,400	-	-

8.28 **Qualitative analysis:** The following criteria were assessed:

- a) **Track surface:**

<i>Rating</i>	<i>Definition</i>	<i>Score</i>
High Quality	A 400m track with an all-weather, synthetic surface, eight lanes and an effectively flat surface. All field event facilities within the track.	5
Above Average	A 400m track with an all-weather, synthetic surface, six lanes and an effectively flat surface. All field event facilities within the track.	4
Average	A 400m track with an all-weather, synthetic surface, six lanes and an effectively flat surface. Most field event facilities within the track.	3
Below Average	A 400m track with a non-all-weather surface, six lanes and an effectively flat surface. Most field event facilities within the track.	2
Poor quality	A track of non-regulation length, non-all-weather surface, uneven surface, field event facilities outside the track.	1

- b) **Pavilion/changing facilities:**

<i>Rating</i>	<i>Definition</i>	<i>Score</i>
High Quality	On-site facilities with social area, separate male, female and disabled changing facilities, well maintained and cleaned.	5
Above Average	On-site facilities with social area and male and female changing facilities, well maintained and cleaned.	4
Average	On-site facilities with limited social area and changing facilities, adequately maintained and cleaned.	3
Below Average	Some limited on-site changing facilities, poorly maintained and cleaned.	2
Poor quality	No on-site changing facilities.	1

c) **Disabled access:**

Rating	Definition	Score
High Quality	Full disabled access to the track, including adequate width access gates and a level or ramped paved path to the changing facilities.	5
Above Average	Full disabled access to the track, including adequate width access gates and a paved path to the changing facilities.	4
Average	Full disabled access to the track, including adequate width access gates but no dedicated path to the changing facilities.	3
Below Average	Limited disabled access to the track due to adequate width access gates and no dedicated path to the changing facilities.	2
Poor quality	No disabled access to the track because access gate width is too narrow, steps up to the track and no dedicated path to the changing facilities.	1

d) **Car parking and general access:** Presence/absence of:

- Dedicated car parking.
- Number of spaces meets Sport England standards.
- Dedicated spaces for mums/toddlers and disabled.
- Good signposting.
- Adequate lighting levels over the whole area.

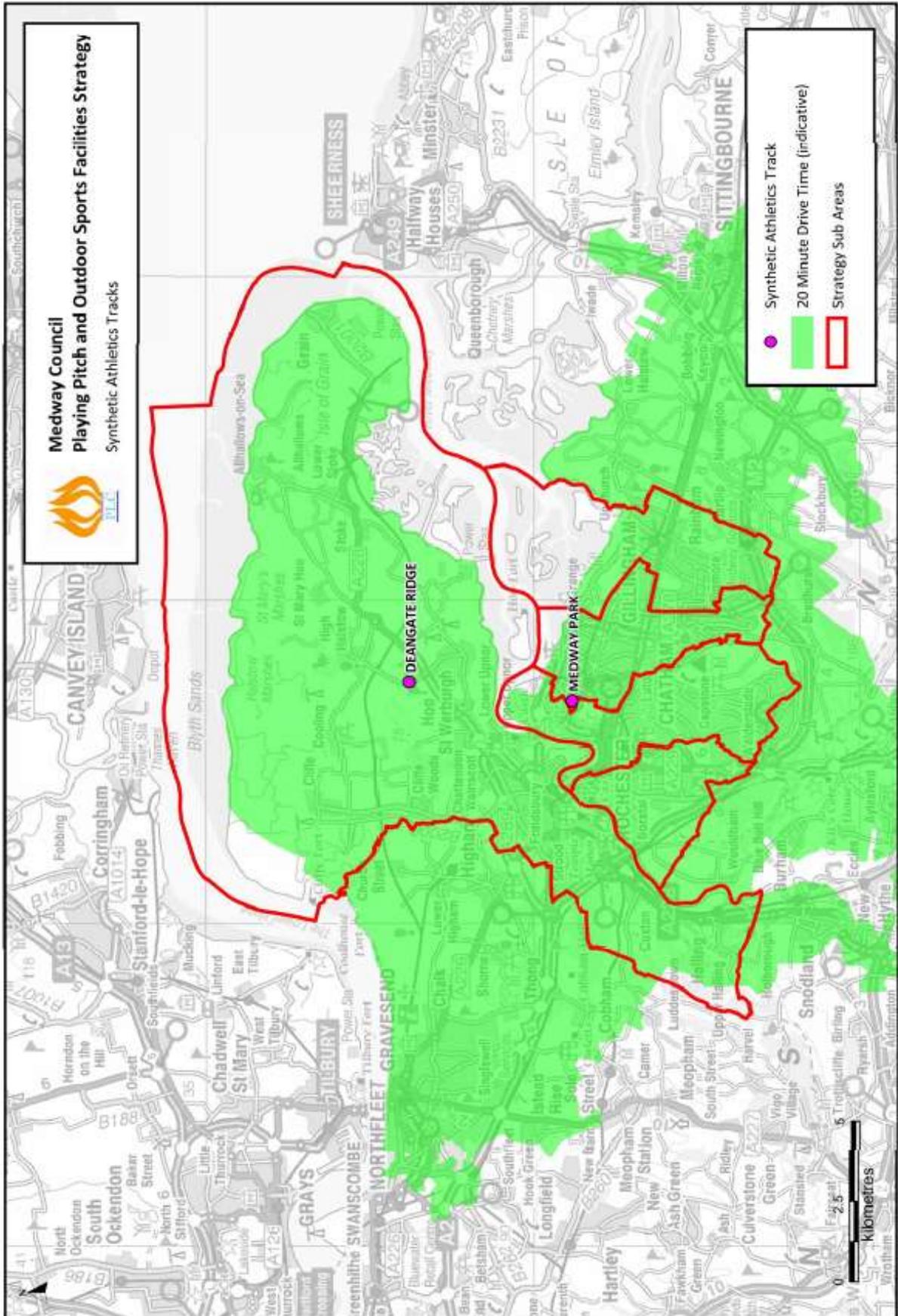
Rating	Definition	Score
High Quality	Complies with all five of the criteria	5
Above Average	Complies with four of the criteria	4
Average	Complies with three of the criteria	3
Below Average	Complies with two of the criteria	2
Poor quality	Complies with one or none of the criteria	1

8.29 The qualitative audit produced the following results. The overall mean score equates to a value of 'good':

Site	Track	Lighting	Disabled	Access
Medway Park	5	5	5	5
Deangate Ridge	3	3	5	5

8.30 **Effective catchment:** None of the local surveys produced any data on travel time to the track. However, at a national level UK Athletics recommends one 400m synthetic athletics track track (6 or 8 lanes) per 250,000 people within 20 minutes drive (45 minutes in rural areas) - '*Athletics Facilities Strategy for the UK*' (2007).

8.31 **Patterns of provision:** A map showing the athletics tracks in Medway, together with the 20 minute driving time catchments is below. The map shows that with the exception of small areas around Upper Halling and north of Cliffe, all parts of the study area are within the catchment of at least one track.



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Bowls greens

8.32 **Definition:** Outdoor bowls greens are effectively flat, fine turf grassed areas, 40 yards x 40 yards, with regulation banks and ditches around the perimeter and ancillary facilities for changing and equipment storage.

8.33 **Quantitative analysis:** Outdoor bowls facilities in Medway and neighbouring areas are as follows:

a) **Provision in Medway:** There are 10 outdoor bowls greens in the study area, equivalent to one green per 26,390 people:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>
Borstal Bowls Club	Brambletrees, Wouldham Road, Borstal ME1 3TL
Chatham Bowls Club	Palmerston Road, Chatham ME4 5SJ
Civil Service (Chatham) Bowls Club	Watling Street, Off Will Adams Way, Gillingham ME8 6BY
Cliffe Bowls Club	APCM Recreation Ground, Church Street, Cliffe ME3 7PJ
GEC Avionics Bowls Section	Bells Lane, Hoo, near Rochester ME3 9JD
Darnley Road Bowling Green	Darnley Road, Strood ME2 2EU
Jackson's Recreation Ground	New Road, Rochester ME1 1DX
Palm Cottage Bowls Club	189, Canterbury Street, Gillingham ME7 5TU
Rochester Clarence Bowls Club	Borstal Road (near Fort Clarence), Rochester ME1 3BB
Sturdee Gillingham Bowls Club	Sturdee Avenue, Gillingham ME7 4HN

b) **Sub-area provision:** Provision in the five sub-areas in Medway is as follows. Per capita levels vary widely.

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>No. greens</i>	<i>Greens/person</i>
Chatham	69,851	1	1: 69,851
Gillingham	64,165	2	1: 32,083
Rochester	33,936	3	1: 11,312
Rainham	34,891	1	1: 34,891
Strood/Rural	61,057	3	1: 20,352
Medway	263,900	10	1: 26,390



Borstal Bowls Club

- c) **Provision in neighbouring areas:** The provision of outdoor bowls facilities in neighbouring local authorities is tabulated below and shows that Medway has the poorest provision of greens per capita, well below the median figure for the five authorities:

<i>Local authority</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>No. greens</i>	<i>Greens/person</i>
Gravesham	99,600	9	1: 11,066
Maidstone	155,200	12	1: 12,933
Swale	133,400	7	1: 19,057
<i>Median</i>	-	8.6	1: 20,586
Tonbridge and Malling	120,800	5	1: 24,160
Medway	263,900	10	1: 26,390

8.34 **Qualitative analysis:** The criteria assessed were as follows:

- a) **Playing surface:**

<i>Rating</i>	<i>Definition</i>	<i>Score</i>
High Quality	An entirely flat surface with uniform grass cover and regulation banks and ditches.	5
Above Average	An effectively flat surface with almost uniform grass cover and regulation banks and ditches around the perimeter.	4
Average	An effectively flat surface with wear around the ends of each rink and regulation banks and ditches around the perimeter.	3
Below Average	A slightly uneven surface with some wear and non-regulation banks and ditches.	2
Poor quality	A significantly uneven surface, with non-uniform, worn grass cover and non-regulation banks and ditches.	1

- b) **Pavilion/changing facilities:**

<i>Rating</i>	<i>Definition</i>	<i>Score</i>
High Quality	On-site facilities with social area, separate male, female and disabled changing facilities, well maintained and cleaned.	5
Above Average	On-site facilities with social area and male and female changing facilities, well maintained and cleaned.	4
Average	On-site facilities with limited social area and changing facilities, adequately maintained and cleaned.	3
Below Average	Some limited on-site changing facilities, poorly maintained and cleaned.	2
Poor quality	No on-site changing facilities.	1

- c) **Disabled access:**

<i>Rating</i>	<i>Definition</i>	<i>Score</i>
High Quality	Full disabled access throughout the site and provision of a ramp to the green, dedicated disabled toilet and changing facilities.	5
Above Average	Disabled access to all key areas of the site, including a ramp to the green dedicated disabled toilet and changing facilities.	4
Average	Disabled access to most of the site, including a ramp to the green, with dedicated disabled toilet and changing facilities.	3
Below Average	Limited disabled access, with no dedicated disabled facilities and no ramp to the green.	2
Poor quality	No disabled access with no dedicated disabled facilities.	1

d) **Car parking and general access:** Presence/absence of:

- Dedicated car parking.
- Number of spaces meets Sport England standards.
- Dedicated spaces for mums/toddlers and disabled.
- Good signposting.
- Adequate lighting levels over the whole area.

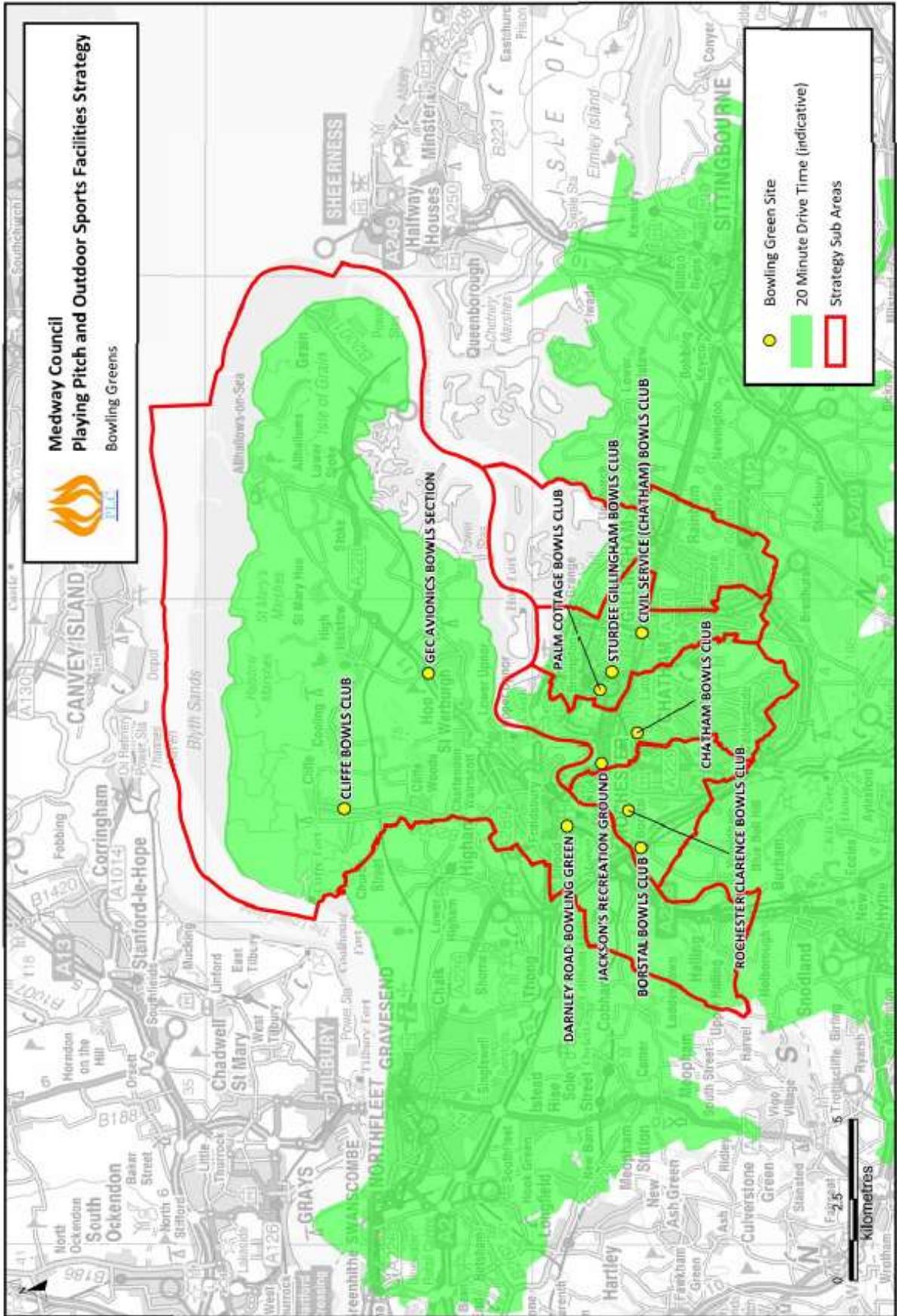
Rating	Definition	Score
High Quality	Complies with all five of the criteria	5
Above Average	Complies with four of the criteria	4
Average	Complies with three of the criteria	3
Below Average	Complies with two of the criteria	2
Poor quality	Complies with one or none of the criteria	1

8.35 The qualitative audit produced the following results. The mean score equates to a value of ‘average’ but some individual aspects of most facilities are rated as ‘below average’ or ‘poor’:

Site	Green	Changing	Disabled	Access	Mean
Borstal Bowls Club	4	3	2	4	3.25
Chatham Bowls Club	4	3	2	4	3.25
Civil Service (Chatham) Bowls Club	5	4	2	5	4.00
Cliffe Bowls Club	5	4	4	4	4.25
GEC Avionics Bowls Section	5	4	3	4	4.00
Darnley Road Bowling Green	4	4	3	4	3.75
Jackson’s Recreation Ground	3	3	2	3	2.75
Palm Cottage Bowls Club	3	4	2	1	2.50
Rochester Clarence Bowls Club	5	4	3	3	3.75
Sturdee Gillingham Bowls Club	4	4	2	3	3.25
Mean	3.70	3.60	2.50	3.50	3.33

8.36 **Effective catchment:** According to Bowls England, 90% of outdoor bowls players travel by car with a maximum journey time of 20 minutes.

8.37 **Patterns of provision:** A map showing the location of outdoor bowls facilities in Medway, together with 20 minutes driving time catchments is contained below. The map shows that all parts of the study area are within the catchment of at least one green.



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Tennis courts

8.38 **Definition:** Tennis courts are hard or grass surfaced courts permanently marked for tennis, complying with dimensions specified by the Lawn Tennis Association.

8.39 **Quantitative analysis:** Outdoor tennis courts in Medway and neighbouring areas are as follows:

a) **Provision in Medway:** There are 67 outdoor tennis courts at 18 sites in the study area, equivalent to one court per 3,831 people:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Courts</i>
APCM Recreation Ground	Church Street, Cliffe ME3 7PJ	2 Grass
Avenue Tennis Club	Glebe Rd, Gillingham ME7 2HU	3 Grass
Chatham Grammar School for Girls	Rainham Road, Chatham ME5 7EH	2 Tarmac
City Tennis Club	Cornwall Road, Rochester ME1 3DR	3 Grass
Darnley Road Tennis Courts	Darnley Road, Strood ME2 2EU	2 Tarmac
Deangate Ridge	Dux Court Road, Hoo, Rochester ME3 8RZ	3 Tarmac
Frindsbury Tennis Club	Frogs Island, Upnor, Rochester ME2 4UX	6 Tarmac 3 Grass
Greenacre School	Walderslade Road, Chatham ME5 0LP	3 Tarmac
Jackson's Recreation Ground	New Road, Rochester ME1 1DX	4 Tarmac
Maidstone Road Sports Ground	Maidstone Road, Chatham ME4 6BZ	4 Tarmac
Medway Sports Centre	Central Avenue, Chatham ME4 4TB	2 Tarmac
Rainham Mark Grammar School	Pump Lane, Rainham ME8 7AJ	5 Tarmac
Robert Napier School	Third Avenue, Gillingham ME7 2LX	3 Tarmac
Stirling Centre	601, Maidstone Road, Rochester ME1 3QJ	8 Tarmac
Strand Leisure Pool and Park	Strand Approach Road, Gillingham ME7 1TT	5 Tarmac
Thomas Aveling School	Arethusa Road, Rochester ME1 2UW	3 Tarmac
Walderslade School for Girls	Bradfields Avenue, Chatham ME5 0LE	4 Tarmac
Wigmore Park	Wigmore Road, Gillingham ME8 0TH	2 Tarmac

b) **Sub-area provision:** Provision in the five sub-areas in Medway is as follows. Per capita levels are best in Rochester and poorest in Gillingham.

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>No. courts</i>	<i>Courts/person</i>
Chatham	69,851	15	1: 4,657
Gillingham	64,165	11	1: 5,833
Rochester	33,936	18	1: 1,885
Rainham	34,891	7	1: 4,984
Strood/Rural	61,057	16	1: 3,816
Medway	263,900	67	1: 3,939

c) **Provision in neighbouring areas:** The provision of outdoor tennis courts in the two neighbouring local authorities for which data is available is tabulated below and shows that Medway has the poorest provision of courts per capita:

<i>Local authority</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>No. courts</i>	<i>Courts/person</i>
Tonbridge and Malling	120,800	65	1: 1,858
Gravesham	99,600	44	1: 2,264
<i>Median</i>	-	60.3	1: 2,562
Medway	263,900	67	1: 3,939

8.40 **Qualitative analysis:** The following criteria were assessed:

a) **Playing surface:**

Rating	Definition	Score
High Quality	An entirely flat, non-slip surface with accurate line markings for tennis.	5
Above Average	An effectively flat, non-slip surface with accurate line markings for tennis.	4
Average	A reasonably flat surface, non-slip with appropriate footwear with line markings for tennis.	3
Below Average	An uneven surface, with some cracks and slippery when wet, with limited line markings for tennis.	2
Poor quality	A very uneven, frequently slippery surface, with many cracks/holes and with limited line markings for tennis.	1



Jacksons Field Tennis Courts showing damaged fencing

b) **Fencing of the courts:**

Rating	Definition	Score
High Quality	Playing area fully enclosed by a high surrounding fence in good repair, with lockable gate.	5
Above Average	Playing area fully enclosed by a surrounding fence in reasonable repair.	4
Average	Playing area mostly enclosed by a surrounding fence in reasonable repair.	3
Below Average	Playing area mostly enclosed by a surrounding fence in poor repair.	2
Poor quality	No perimeter fence	1

c) **Disabled access:**

Rating	Definition	Score
High Quality	Full disabled access to the court(s), including adequate width access gates and a level or ramped paved path to any changing facilities.	5
Above Average	Full disabled access to the court(s), including adequate width access gates and a paved path to any changing facilities.	4
Average	Full disabled access to the court(s), including adequate width access gates but no dedicated path to any changing facilities.	3
Below Average	Limited disabled access to the court(s) due to adequate width access gates and no dedicated path to any changing facilities.	2
Poor quality	No disabled access to the court(s) because access gate width is too narrow, steps up to the track and no dedicated path to any changing facilities.	1

d) **Car parking and general access:** Presence/absence of:

- Dedicated car parking.
- Number of spaces meets Sport England standards.
- Dedicated spaces for mums/toddlers and disabled.
- Good signposting.
- Adequate lighting levels over the whole area.

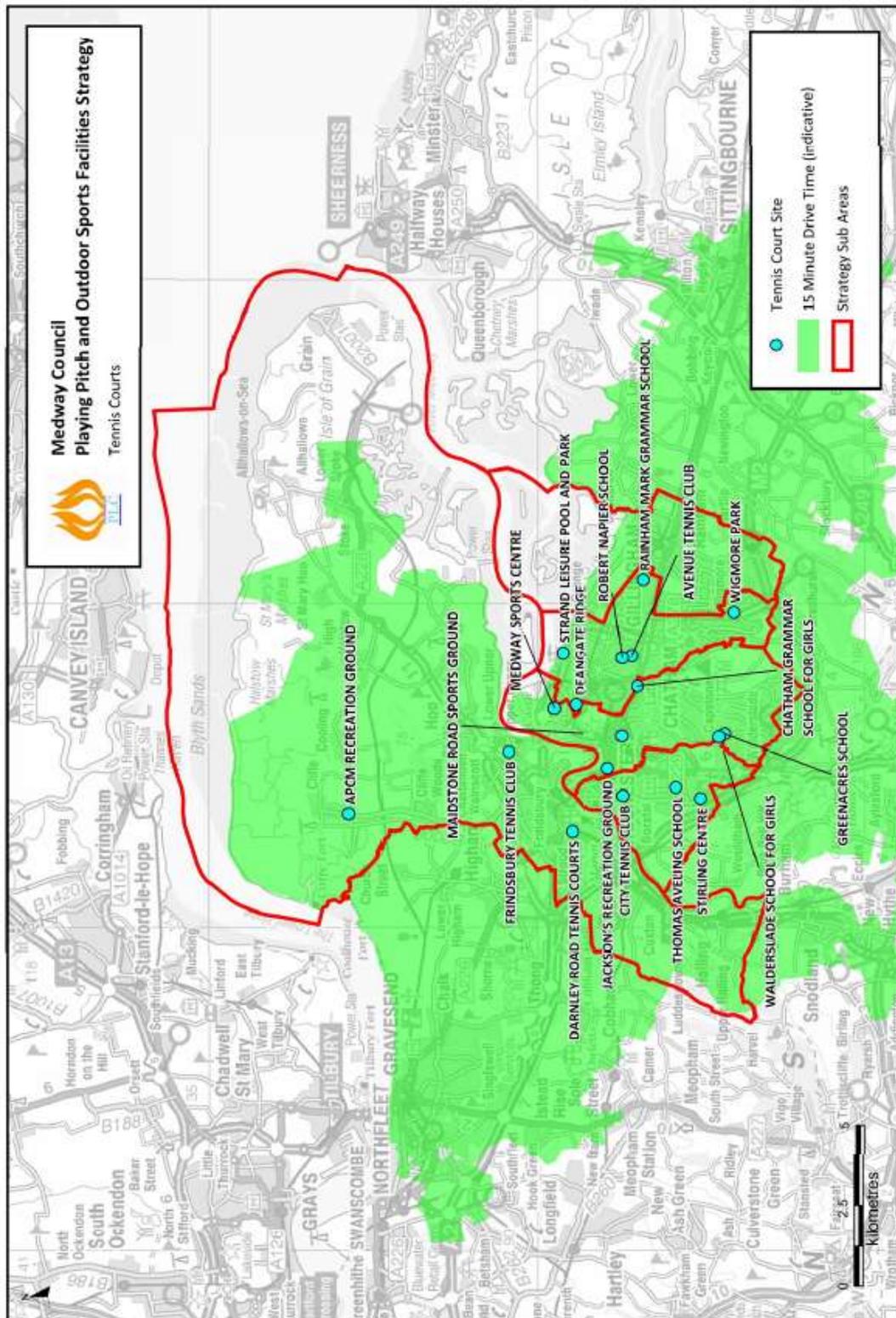
Rating	Definition	Score
High Quality	Complies with all five of the criteria	5
Above Average	Complies with four of the criteria	4
Average	Complies with three of the criteria	3
Below Average	Complies with two of the criteria	2
Poor quality	Complies with one or none of the criteria	1

8.41 The qualitative audit produced the following results. The mean score equates to a value of above 'average' but individual aspects of some facilities are rated as 'below average' or 'poor':

Site	Surface	Lights	Fencing	Access	Mean
APCM Recreation Ground	4	-	4	2	3.33
Avenue Tennis Club	5	-	3	1	3.00
Chatham Grammar School for Girls	5	-	5	4	4.67
City Tennis Club	4	-	2	1	2.33
Darnley Road Tennis Courts	4	-	4	3	3.67
Deangate Ridge	3	-	2	4	3.00
Frindsbury Tennis Club	5	5	5	5	5.00
Greenacre School	3	-	3	2	2.67
Jackson's Recreation Ground	4	-	4	3	3.67
Maidstone Road Sports Ground	3	-	4	5	4.00
Medway Sports Centre	4	-	4	4	4.00
Rainham Mark Grammar School	5	5	5	5	5.00
Robert Napier School	4	-	4	3	3.75
Stirling Centre	5	5	5	5	5.00
Strand Leisure Pool and Park	3	-	3	3	2.67
Thomas Aveling School	4	-	4	3	3.67
Walderslade School for Girls	3	2	3	2	2.50
Wigmore Park	3	-	4	2	3.00
Mean	3.94	4.25	3.75	3.19	3.78

8.42 **Effective catchment:** Research commissioned by the Lawn Tennis Association revealed that outdoor tennis court users typically travel for up to 15 minutes to reach their chosen facility and around 70% travel by car.

8.43 **Patterns of provision:** A map showing the location of tennis courts in Medway, together with 15minutes driving time catchments is contained below. The map shows that, with the exception of an area in the north-east of the study area, around Grain, all parts of Medway are within the catchment of at least one court.



Golf courses

8.44 **Definition:** Golf courses are specialist facilities comprising nine or eighteen holes. For the purposes of the study, only the larger courses of par three and above have been included, because ‘pitch and putt’ courses and golf driving ranges tend to be used for practice purposes only.

8.45 **Quantitative analysis:** Golf courses in Medway and neighbouring areas are as follows:

- a) **Provision in Medway:** There are three golf courses (2.5 eighteen-hole units) in the study area, comprising 45 holes, equivalent to one course per 102,680 people and one hole per 5,704 people:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>No. holes</i>
Deangate Ridge	Dux Court Road, Hoo, Rochester ME3 8RZ	18
Gillingham Golf Club	Woodlands Road, Gillingham ME7 2AP	18
Allhallows Golf Course	Avery Way, Allhallows, Rochester ME3 9QJ	9

- b) **Sub-area provision:** Provision in the five sub-areas in Medway is as follows.

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>No. Courses</i>	<i>Courses/person</i>	<i>No. Holes</i>	<i>Holes/person</i>
Chatham	69,851	0	-	0	-
Gillingham	64,165	1	1: 64,165	18	1: 3,565
Rochester	33,936	0	-	-	-
Rainham	34,891	0	-	-	-
Strood/Rural	61,057	1.5	1: 40,705	27	1: 2,261
Medway	263,900	2.5	1: 105,560	45	1: 5,864

- c) **Provision in neighbouring areas:** The provision of golf courses in neighbouring local authorities is tabulated below. Medway has by far the poorest levels of provision of courses and golf holes per capita, well below the median figure for the authorities:

<i>Local authority</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>No. Courses</i>	<i>Courses/person</i>	<i>No. Holes</i>	<i>Holes/person</i>
Tonbridge and Malling	120,800	6.5	1: 18,585	117	1: 1,032
Gravesham	99,600	3.5	1: 28,457	63	1: 1,581
Maidstone	155,200	5	1: 31,040	90	1: 1,724
<i>Median</i>	-	<i>4.0</i>	<i>1: 46,824</i>	<i>72</i>	<i>1: 2,601</i>
Swale	133,400	2.5	1: 53,360	45	1: 2,964
Medway	263,900	2.5	1: 105,560	45	1: 5,864

8.46 **Qualitative analysis:** The following criteria were assessed:

- a) **The course:**

<i>Rating</i>	<i>Definition</i>	<i>Score</i>
High Quality	An 18-hole course, with high-quality greens and fairways.	5
Above Average	An 18-hole course, with good-quality greens and fairways.	4
Average	A 9-hole course, with high-quality greens and fairways.	3
Below Average	A 9-hole course, with reasonable quality greens and fairways.	2
Poor quality	An 18 or 9-hole course, with poor-quality greens and fairways.	1

b) *Clubhouse/changing facilities:*

<i>Rating</i>	<i>Definition</i>	<i>Score</i>
High Quality	On-site facilities with social area, separate male, female and disabled changing facilities, well maintained and cleaned.	5
Above Average	On-site facilities with social area and male and female changing facilities, well-maintained and cleaned.	4
Average	On-site facilities with limited social area and changing facilities, adequately maintained and cleaned.	3
Below Average	Some limited on-site changing facilities, poorly maintained and cleaned.	2
Poor quality	No on-site changing facilities.	1

c) *Disabled access:*

<i>Rating</i>	<i>Definition</i>	<i>Score</i>
High Quality	Full disabled access throughout, dedicated disabled toilet and changing.	5
Above Average	Disabled access to all key areas, dedicated disabled toilet and changing.	4
Average	Disabled access to most of the site, dedicated disabled toilet and changing.	3
Below Average	Limited disabled access with no dedicated disabled facilities.	2
Poor quality	No disabled access with no dedicated disabled facilities.	1

d) *Car parking and general access:* Presence/absence of:

- Dedicated car parking.
- Number of spaces meets Sport England standards.
- Dedicated spaces for mums/toddlers and disabled.
- Good signposting.
- Adequate lighting levels over the whole area.

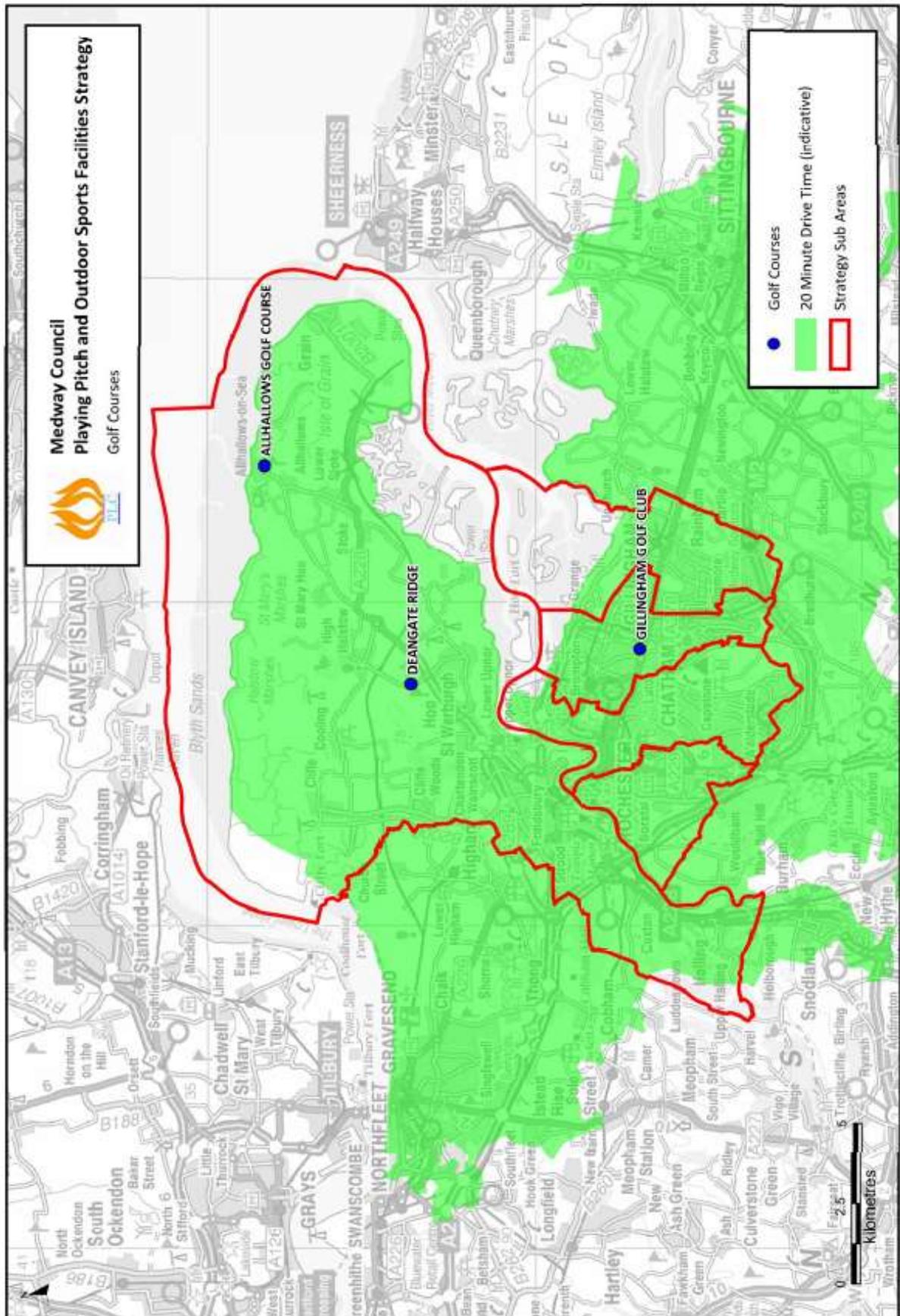
<i>Rating</i>	<i>Definition</i>	<i>Score</i>
High Quality	Complies with all five of the criteria	5
Above Average	Complies with four of the criteria	4
Average	Complies with three of the criteria	3
Below Average	Complies with two of the criteria	2
Poor quality	Complies with one or none of the criteria	1

8.47 The qualitative audit identified that with the exception of the Allhallows course, most aspects of golf course provision in the study area are rated as at least ‘above average’:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Course</i>	<i>Clubhouse</i>	<i>Disabled</i>	<i>Access</i>	<i>Mean</i>
Deangate Ridge	5	5	4	4	4.50
Gillingham Golf Club	4	5	4	5	4.50
Allhallows Golf Course	3	2	2	2	2.75
Mean	4.00	4.00	3.33	3.67	3.75

8.48 *Effective catchment:* Research commissioned by the English Golf Union revealed that golfers typically travel for up to 20 minutes to reach their chosen course and more than 90% travel by car.

8.49 *Patterns of provision:* A map showing the location of golf courses in Medway, together with 20 minutes driving time catchments is contained below. The map shows that all parts of the study area are within the catchment of at least one course.



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Multi-use Games Areas

8.50 **Definition:** Multi-use Games Areas (MUGAs) are hard-surfaced courts permanently marked for a range of sports including five-a-side football, basketball, netball and tennis.

8.51 **Quantitative analysis:** MUGAs in Medway and neighbouring areas are as follows:

- a) **Provision in Medway:** There are 18 MUGAs in the study area, equivalent to one per 14,261 people:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>
Barnfield MUGA	Barnfield, Chatham ME5 0HT
Bush Road MUGA	Bush Road, Cuxton ME2 1EZ
Castlemaine Avenue MUGA	Castlemaine Avenue, Gillingham ME7 2QE
Chalkpit Hill MUGA	Chalkpit Hill, Chatham ME4 5SU
Church Street MUGA	Church Street, Cliffe ME3 7PJ
Copperfield Park MUGA	Copperfield Road, Rochester ME1 2JB
Ferry Meadow MUGA	Howlsmere Close, Halling, Rochester ME2 1ER
High Street MUGA	High Street, Grain ME3 0BL
Hook Meadow MUGA	Walderslade Road, Rochester ME4 6NY
James Street MUGA	Skinner Street, Gillingham ME7 1LG
Kestrel Road MUGA	Kestrel Road, Lordswood, Chatham ME5 8TQ
Maidstone Road MUGA	Maidstone Road, Chatham ME4 6BZ
Pottery Road MUGA	Pottery Road, Hoo ME3 9BS
Princes Park MUGA	Princes Avenue, Chatham ME5 7RD
St. James's Park MUGA	Isle of Grain ME3 0BU
Teal Drive MUGA	Teal Drive, St. Mary's Island, Chatham ME4 3HA
Vicarage Road MUGA	Vicarage Road, Halling ME2 1BE

- b) **Sub-area provision:** Provision in the five sub-areas in Medway varies widely as follows.

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>No. MUGAs</i>	<i>MUGAs/person</i>
Chatham	69,851	7	1: 9,979
Gillingham	64,165	2	1: 32,083
Rochester	33,936	2	1: 16,968
Rainham	34,891	0	-
Strood/Rural	61,057	7	1: 8,722
Medway	263,900	18	1: 14,661

- c) **Provision in neighbouring areas:** The provision of MUGAs in the only neighbouring local authority for which data is available is tabulated below and shows that Medway has the poorer provision of courts per capita:

<i>Local authority</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>No. MUGAs</i>	<i>MUGAs/person</i>
Gravesham	99,600	10	1: 9,960
Medway	263,900	18	1: 14,661

8.52 **Qualitative analysis:** The criteria assessed were as follows:

a) **Playing surface:**

Rating	Definition	Score
High Quality	An entirely flat, non-slip surface with accurate line markings for all appropriate outdoor sports.	5
Above Average	An effectively flat, non-slip surface with accurate line markings for most appropriate outdoor sports.	4
Average	A reasonably flat surface, non-slip with appropriate footwear with line markings for some outdoor sports.	3
Below Average	An uneven surface, with some cracks and slippery when wet, with limited line markings for appropriate outdoor sports.	2
Poor quality	A very uneven, frequently slippery surface, with many cracks/holes and with no line markings for outdoor sports.	1

b) **Lighting of the sports playing area:**

Rating	Definition	Score
High Quality	Strong lighting levels over the entire playing area, with no glare, shadows or reflection to distract players.	5
Above Average	Adequate lighting levels over the entire playing area, with some slight glare, shadows or reflection to distract players.	4
Average	Adequate lighting levels over the entire playing area, with glare, shadows or reflection to distract players.	3
Below Average	Adequate lighting levels over the most of the playing area, with glare, shadows or reflection to distract players.	2
Poor quality	Poor lighting levels over the entire playing area, with glare, shadows or reflection that distracts players.	1



Barnfield MUGA

c) *Fencing of the sports playing area:*

Rating	Definition	Score
High Quality	Playing area fully enclosed by a high surrounding fence in good repair, with lockable gate and perimeter rebound boards.	5
Above Average	Playing area fully enclosed by a surrounding fence in reasonable repair, with a gate and perimeter rebound boards.	4
Average	Playing area mostly enclosed by a surrounding fence in reasonable repair, with perimeter rebound boards.	3
Below Average	Playing area mostly enclosed by a surrounding fence in poor repair, with no perimeter rebound boards.	2
Poor quality	No perimeter fence	1

d) *Disabled access:*

Rating	Definition	Score
High Quality	Full disabled access to the MUGA, including adequate width access gates and a level or ramped paved path to any changing facilities.	5
Above Average	Full disabled access to the MUGA, including adequate width access gates and a paved path to any changing facilities.	4
Average	Full disabled access to the MUGA, including adequate width access gates but no dedicated path to any changing facilities.	3
Below Average	Limited disabled access to the MUGA due to adequate width access gates and no dedicated path to any changing facilities.	2
Poor quality	No disabled access to the MUGA because access gate width is too narrow, steps up to the track and no dedicated path to any changing facilities.	1

8.53 The qualitative audit identified that most aspects of MUGA provision in the study area are rated as at least 'above average':

Site	Surface	Lights	Fencing	Access	Mean
Barnfield MUGA	4	-	5	5	4.67
Bush Road MUGA	5	5	5	4	4.75
Castlemaine Avenue MUGA	4	5	-	3	4.00
Chalkpit Hill MUGA	3	-	5	3	3.67
Church Street MUGA	5	-	5	4	4.67
Copperfield Park MUGA	3	-	5	2	3.33
Ferry Meadow MUGA	5	-	5	4	4.67
High Street MUGA	5	4	5	4	4.50
Hook Meadow MUGA	5	-	5	5	5.00
James Street MUGA	3	-	4	4	3.67
Kestrel Road MUGA	4	-	5	4	4.33
Maidstone Road MUGA	4	-	2	4	3.33
Pottery Road MUGA	5	4	5	5	4.75
Princes Park MUGA	5	-	5	3	4.33
St. James's Park MUGA	3	4	5	4	4.00
Teal Drive MUGA	4	4	5	3	4.00
Vicarage Road MUGA	5	-	5	4	4.67
Mean	4.24	4.33	4.47	3.82	4.22

8.54 *Effective catchment:* Most MUGA users live close to their chosen facility, with 10 minutes being the typical maximum travel time and walking being the commonest form of travel.

The implications for playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities

8.56 The implications of the supply of pitches and outdoor sports facilities in Medway are as follows:

- a) **Adult football:** There are 98 adult pitches in Medway, although 35 of these are below 'average' quality, so the adjusted figure for pitch carrying capacity is 80.5. The per capita levels of provision are similar to neighbouring Gravesham and are relatively even across the study area. No parts of Medway are beyond a 15 minute drivetime of the nearest pitch. Around 75% of adult pitches have secured public access.
- b) **Youth football:** There are 48 youth pitches in Medway, although 18 of these are below 'average' quality, so the adjusted figure for pitch carrying capacity is 39. The per capita levels of provision are around 20% lower than in neighbouring Gravesham and are relatively even across the study area. Apart from a small area around Allhallows-on-Sea, no parts of Medway are beyond a 15 minute drivetime of the nearest pitch. Around two-thirds of youth pitches have secured public access.



*Youth football pitch at Upper Halling Recreation Ground
showing goalmouth wear and slope*

- c) **Mini-soccer:** There are only 25 permanently marked mini-soccer pitches in Medway, although since many mini-soccer pitches are marked out temporarily across other pitches, with moveable goal posts and cones, pitches are likely to be undercounted. 5 of the permanent pitches are below 'average' quality, so the adjusted figure for pitch carrying capacity is 22.5. The per capita levels of provision are 20% lower than in neighbouring Gravesham and are particularly poor in the urban sub-areas. Apart from a small area around Allhallows-on-Sea, no parts of Medway are beyond a 15 minute drivetime of the nearest pitch. Only 18% of mini-soccer pitches are on sites with secured community access.

- d) **Cricket:** There are 19 cricket pitches in Medway, although one of these is below ‘average’ quality, so the adjusted figure for pitch carrying capacity is 18.5. The per capita levels of provision are around 65% lower than in neighbouring Gravesham and provision varies widely across the study area, but is best in Rochester. With the exception of small areas around Grain and Upper Halling, all parts of Medway are within the catchment of at least one pitch. Two-thirds of cricket pitches have secured public access.
- e) **Rugby:** There are 24 rugby union and league pitches in Medway, although two of these are below ‘average’ quality, so the adjusted figure for pitch carrying capacity is 22. The per capita levels of provision are around 50% lower than in neighbouring Gravesham and provision varies widely across the study area, reflecting the dispersed nature of demand from the four clubs in Medway. With the exception of small areas around Grain, north of Cliffe, Hoo St. Werbergh and Upper Halling, all parts of Medway are within the catchment of at least one pitch 50% of rugby pitches have secured public access.
- f) **Hockey:** There are 8 synthetic turf pitches in Medway. The per capita levels of provision are better than all the neighbouring areas although provision varies widely across the study area, but is best in Rochester. With the exception of small areas around Grain and north of Cliffe, all parts of Medway are within the catchment of at least one pitch. 50% of pitches have secured public access. Only one pitch has the ‘Third Generation’ (3G) surface favoured for football usage.



‘Third Generation’ (3G) Synthetic Turf Pitch at Greenacre School

- g) **Athletics:** There are two synthetic tracks in Medway. The per capita levels of provision are higher than all the neighbouring local authorities apart from Maidstone and are almost twice as high as UK Athletics recommended minimum levels of provision. With the exception of small areas around Upper Halling and north of Cliffe, all parts of Medway are within the catchment of at least one track. The quality of all aspects of track provision is rated as at least ‘average’.

- h) **Bowls:** There are ten bowling greens in Medway. The per capita levels of provision are the poorest of all the neighbouring local authorities. All parts of Medway are within the catchment of at least one green. The mean quality scores equates to a value of above 'average' but some individual aspects of most facilities are rated as 'below average' or 'poor':
- i) **Tennis:** There are 67 tennis courts at 18 sites in Medway. The per capita levels of provision are the poorest of all the neighbouring local authorities. Levels of provision vary widely between the sub-areas, but are poorest in Gillingham. With the exception of an area in the north-east of the study area, around Grain, all parts of Medway are within the catchment of at least one court. The mean quality scores equates to a value of above 'average' but some individual aspects of most facilities are rated as 'below average' or 'poor':
- j) **Golf:** There are three golf courses (2.5 eighteen-hole units) in Medway, comprising 45 holes. The per capita levels of provision are by far the poorest of all the neighbouring local authorities, however all parts of the study area are within the catchment of at least one course. The mean quality scores equates to a value of above 'average' but one facility is rated as 'below average'.
- k) **MUGAs:** There are 18 Multi-use Games Areas in Medway, but per capita levels of provision are around 30% lower than in neighbouring Gravesham. Levels of provision vary widely between the sub-areas, but are poorest in Gillingham. Because the 10 minutes walking time catchment is fairly limited, large parts of Medway are beyond the catchment of a MUGA. The mean quality scores equates to a value of above 'average'.



Deangate Ridge Athletics Track

IX THE BALANCE BETWEEN SUPPLY AND DEMAND

9.1 **Introduction:** To assess the adequacy of playing pitch provision in the study area, Sport England’s Playing Pitch Model (PPM) was applied, in line with its policy document ‘Towards a Level Playing Field: A Guide to the Production of Playing Pitch Strategies’ (2005). The PPM involves the following stages:

- a) **Stage one - Identifying teams/team equivalents:** The full list of all clubs and teams in Medway are identified and their match and training needs are converted into team equivalents.
- b) **Stage two - Calculating home games per team per week:** These figures are identified from the above data.
- c) **Stage three - Assessing total home games per week:** These are calculated from the above outputs.
- d) **Stage four - Establishing temporal demand for games:** This is identified from the regular timings of matches, to identify the periods of peak demand.
- e) **Stage five - Defining pitches used on each day:** This is calculated by applying the peak demand.
- f) **Stage six - Establishing the number of pitches available for each sport:** All pitches for each sport in Medway are identified and their carrying capacity at the peak period is calculated by assessing qualitative data.
- g) **Stage seven - Identifying the balance:** This is done by comparing data generated from the previous six stages.
- h) **Stage eight - Identifying latent demand:** A range of factors are considered to establish whether the ‘raw’ outputs of the PPM need to be refined to take account of local circumstances.

9.2 **PPM Results:** The results of applying the PPM in Medway are as follows:

		Football	Cricket	Rugby	Hockey
Stage 1 Identifying team equivalents	Adult male teams	180	51	28	48
	Youth male teams	182	50	28	26
	Mixed Mini teams	127	-	10	-
	Adult female teams	7	0	2	14
	Youth female teams	17	0	4	6
Stage 2 Calculate home games per week	Adult male games	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.5
	Youth male games	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.5
	Mixed Mini games	0.5	-	0.5	0.5
	Adult female games	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.5
	Youth female games	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.5
Stage 3 Assessing total home Games per week	Adult male games	90.0	35.7	14.0	24.0
	Youth male games	91.0	35.0	14.0	13.0
	Mixed Mini games	63.5	-	5.0	-
	Adult female games	3.5	0	1.0	7.0
	Youth female games	8.5	0	2.0	3.0

			<i>Football</i>	<i>Cricket</i>	<i>Rugby</i>	<i>Hockey</i>
Stage 4 Establish temporal demand for pitches	Saturday morning	Adult male teams	0%	0%	0%	0%
		Youth male teams	0%	13%	0%	0%
		Mixed Mini teams	15%	-	0%	0%
		Adult female teams	0%	0%	0%	0%
		Youth female teams	0%	0%	0%	0%
	Saturday afternoon	Adult male teams	26%	56%	50%	50%
		Youth male teams	0%	0%	0%	0%
		Mixed Mini teams	15%	-	0%	-
		Adult female teams	0%	0%	50%	50%
		Youth female teams	0%	0%	0%	0%
	Sunday morning	Adult male teams	62%	0%	0%	0%
		Youth male teams	15%	37%	50%	50%
		Mixed Mini teams	45%	-	100%	-
		Adult female teams	0%	0%	0%	0%
		Youth female teams	0%	0%	50%	50%
	Sunday afternoon	Adult male teams	0%	28%	0%	0%
		Youth male teams	70%	0%	0%	0%
		Mixed Mini teams	25%	-	0%	0%
		Adult female teams	50%	0%	0%	0%
		Youth female teams	50%	0%	0%	0%
Midweek	Adult male teams	12%	16%	50%	50%	
	Youth male teams	15%	50%	50%	50%	
	Mixed Mini teams	0%	-	0%	0%	
	Adult female teams	50%	0%	50%	50%	
	Youth female teams	50%	0%	50%	50%	
Stage 5 Defining pitches needed each day	Saturday morning	Adult male pitches	0	0	0	0
		Youth male pitches	0	4.6	0	0
		Mixed Mini pitches	9.5	-	0	0
		Adult female pitches	0	0	0	0
		Youth female pitches	0	0	0	0
	Saturday afternoon	Adult male pitches	23.4	20.0	7.0	12.0
		Youth male pitches	0	0	0	0
		Mixed Mini pitches	9.5	-	0	-
		Adult female pitches	0	0	0.5	3.5
		Youth female pitches	0	0	0	0
	Sunday morning	Adult male pitches	55.8	0	0	0
		Youth male pitches	13.7	13.0	7.0	6.5
		Mixed Mini pitches	28.6	-	5.0	-
		Adult female pitches	0	0	0	0
		Youth female pitches	0	0	1.0	1.5
	Sunday afternoon	Adult male pitches	0	10.0	0	0
		Youth male pitches	63.7	0	0	0
		Mixed Mini pitches	15.9	-	0	0
		Adult female pitches	1.8	0	0	0
		Youth female pitches	4.3	0	0	0
Midweek	Adult male pitches	10.8	5.6	7.0	12.0	
	Youth male pitches	13.6	17.5	7.0	6.5	
	Mixed Mini pitches	0	-	0	-	
	Adult female pitches	1.7	0	0.5	3.5	
	Youth female pitches	4.2	0	1.0	1.5	

			Football	Cricket	Rugby	Hockey
Stage 6 Establishing pitches effectively available	Adult pitches		80.5	18.5	23.0	8
	Youth pitches		39.0			
	Mini pitches		22.5			
Stage 7 Identifying shortfalls (-) and surplus (+)	Saturday morning	Adult pitches	+80.5	+13.9	+23.0	+8.0
		Youth pitches	+29.0			
		Mini pitches	+13.0			
	Saturday afternoon	Adult pitches	+57.1	-1.5	+15.5	-7.5
		Youth pitches	+39.0			
		Mini pitches	+13.0			
	Sunday morning	Adult pitches	+24.7	+5.5	+10.0	0.0
		Youth pitches	+25.3			
		Mini pitches	-6.1			
	Sunday afternoon	Adult pitches	+78.7	+8.5	+23.0	+8.0
		Youth pitches	-29.0			
		Mini pitches	+6.6			
	Midweek	Adult pitches	+68.0	-4.6	+7.5	-15.5
		Youth pitches	+21.2			
		Mini pitches	+22.5			

9.3 **Sub-area analysis:** The table below shows the supply-demand balance for pitches in the peak periods in Medway by sub-area, using the 'raw' outputs from the PPM:

- Demand:** The demand figures include team equivalents.
- Supply:** The supply figures are adjusted for pitch carrying capacity.

Sub- area	Factor	Adult football	Youth football	Mini- soccer	Cricket	Rugby	Hockey
Chatham	Demand	20.7	18.6	9.6	2.8	1.5	0.0
	Supply	22.5	6.5	3.0	3.0	4.0	1.0
	+ / -	+1.8	-12.1	-6.4	+0.2	+2.5	+1.0
Gillingham	Demand	11.9	18.6	6.0	0.8	6.5	5.0
	Supply	21.0	7.5	6.0	1.0	6.0	2.0
	+ / -	+9.1	-11.1	0.0	+0.2	-0.5	-3.0
Rochester	Demand	3.3	6.6	2.9	8.9	7.5	18.5
	Supply	11.0	4.0	2.0	7.5	11.0	4.0
	+ / -	+7.7	-2.6	-0.9	-1.4	+3.5	-15.5
Rainham	Demand	6.5	11.1	6.0	3.5	0.0	0.0
	Supply	9.0	5.5	3.0	2.0	0.0	0.0
	+ / -	+2.5	-5.6	-3.0	-1.5	0.0	0.0
Strood/Rural	Demand	15.4	13.1	4.3	6.5	0.0	0.0
	Supply	19.0	15.5	8.5	5.0	2.0	1.0
	+ / -	+3.6	+2.4	+ 4.2	-1.5	+2.0	+1.0

9.4 The sub-area analysis reveals the following:

- There is a surplus of adult football pitches in all sub-areas, although this is smallest in Chatham.
- There is a significant shortfall of youth football pitches in all sub-areas other than Strood and Rural, greater than could be met simply by converting surplus adult football pitches to youth.

- c) There is a shortfall of mini-soccer pitches in all sub-areas except Gillingham (where there is a precise balance between supply and demand) and Strood and Rural.
- d) There is a small deficit in cricket pitches in Rochester, Rainham and Strood and Rural, before account is taken of the spread of fixtures across midweek evenings.
- e) There is a small deficit in rugby pitches in Gillingham before account is taken of multiple match use of pitches by mini-rugby.
- f) There is a deficit in synthetic turf pitches, especially in the Rochester sub-area before account is taken of multiple match use of pitches by hockey.

9.5 **Latent demand:** To supplement the above analysis, the latent demand for each pitch sport is examined below and factored in to the preliminary numerical assessment of deficiency based on the ‘raw’ numerical outputs of the PPM:

a) **Football:**

<i>Factor</i>	<i>Analysis in Medway</i>	<i>Impact on latent demand</i>
Current frustrated demand	None of the football clubs responding to the clubs survey indicated that they are unable to expand their membership due to a lack of suitable facilities. - <i>Medway Sports Clubs Survey (2012)</i>	There no evidence of frustrated demand for football.
Sports development initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The FA has a national target to increase weekly participation in football 150,000 participants between 2011 and 2015. - <i>‘National Game Strategy 2011- 2015’ (2011)</i>. • Involvement in organised sport decreased by 9.3% in Medway between 2006 and 2011, so target increases in participation may not be realised. - <i>‘Active People Survey’ (2011)</i>. 	The impact on demand from football development programmes may place additional pressures on existing pitch provision.
Quality of pitches/ facilities	The audit of pitch quality identified that 29.6% of adult football pitches, 37.5% of junior football pitches and 20.0% of mini-soccer pitches in Medway are rated as below average, so the quantity of football will be compromised to some extent by quality. - <i>Medway Qualitative audit (2012)</i> .	The impact of the quality of pitches on their carrying capacity has been reflected in the supply and demand calculations in the PPM.
National sporting success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The high media profile that football enjoys as the ‘national game’ makes it an attractive option for many young players. - <i>‘National Game Strategy 2011- 2015’ (2011)</i>. • The increased media coverage of the women’s game has helped it to overtake Netball as the most popular women’s team sport. - <i>‘National Game Strategy 2011- 2015’ (2011)</i>. 	There is no firm evidence that the performance of the national team has specifically influenced local participation rates.
Pricing policies	33.3% of respondents to the sports clubs survey believe that pitch hire charges represent ‘good’ value for money and a further 41.7% that they represent ‘acceptable’ value for money, so there is no strong evidence that price is deterring use. - <i>Medway Sports Clubs Survey (2012)</i> .	There is no discernible impact of pricing on latent demand.
School sport	29.6% of adult football pitches, 39.6% of youth football pitches and 72.0% of mini-soccer pitches with community use in Medway are on school sites, so any changes in the volume of schools use would impact on their capacity to accommodate external use. - <i>Medway Quantitative audit (2012)</i> .	Any increased use of school pitches by schools would have a significant effect on overall pitch availability.
Long-term impact of mini-sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of mini-soccer teams in the study area increased between 2010 and 2011. - <i>FA ‘Local Participation Report’ for Medway (2011)</i>. 	Increasing youth and mini teams will create demand for additional pitches.

Factor	Analysis in Medway	Impact on latent demand
Lifestyle changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changing lifestyles (for example more weekend working) have created a trend where larger pools of players are needed to form a team. The FA recognises this phenomenon and has set a target of maintaining the current number of adult men's teams, despite an overall increase in the number of players. - <i>'National Game Strategy 2011- 2015'</i> (2011). Many players are prolonging their careers, which has led to the development of small-sided versions of the game for older players. - <i>'National Game Strategy 2011- 2015'</i> (2011). 	Lifestyle changes are unlikely to have any further significant impact upon overall demand for football, but may lead to increased demand for small-sided pitches for older players.

b) **Cricket:**

Factor	Analysis in Medway	Impact on latent demand
Current frustrated demand	Up to ten cricket clubs in Medway have disbanded in recent years and a shortage of pitches has contributed to this. - <i>Kent Cricket Board</i> (2012). Three clubs in Medway play at least some of their fixtures on pitches outside the study area. - <i>Kent Cricket Board</i> (2012).	There is clear evidence of frustrated demand for cricket in the study area.
Sports development initiatives	Five of the nine clubs have the Club Mark award and therefore run active development programmes for juniors. - <i>Medway Sports Clubs Survey</i> (2012).	Given the current modest levels of cricket activity, further significant increases are unlikely.
Quality of pitches/ facilities	The audit of pitch quality identified that one cricket pitch is rated as below 'average' and as a result its quality may limit the quantity of cricket it can accommodate. - <i>Medway Qualitative audit</i> (2012).	The impact of the quality of pitches on their carrying capacity has been reflected in the supply and demand calculations in the PPM.
National sporting success	The success of the England team in the recent Ashes Series' does not appear to have had a sustained impact on overall weekly adult participation in cricket, which increased by only 0.03% (from 0.48% to 0.51% between 2006 and 2011). - <i>Active People Survey</i> (2011).	The impact of national sporting success in cricket does not appear to have had a significant sustained effect at community level.
Pricing policies	All the cricket respondents to the sports clubs survey believe that pitch hire charges represent 'good' value for money, so there is no evidence that price is deterring use. - <i>Medway Sports Clubs Survey</i> (2012).	There is no discernible impact of pricing on latent demand.
School sports curriculum	36.8% of cricket pitches with community use in the study area are on school sites. - <i>Medway Quantitative audit</i> (2012).	Increased use of pitches by schools could have an effect on overall pitch availability.
Long-term impact of mini-sports	The number of junior teams is just below the number of adult teams and it is therefore unlikely that when age group participation converts into adult teams, demand for pitches will increase substantially. - <i>Medway Sports Clubs Survey</i> (2012).	It is likely that demand for pitches will remain similar as the current numbers of junior players get older.
Lifestyle changes	The age band by which adult cricket is defined already extends to 55, so competitive play by older players is an established phenomenon. - <i>'Towards a Level Playing Field: A Guide to the Production of Playing Pitch Strategies'</i> (2005).	Lifestyle changes are likely to have a limited impact on latent demand.

c) **Rugby:**

Factor	Analysis in Analysis in Medway	Impact on latent demand
Current frustrated demand	Medway Rugby Club identified that it is unable to increase its junior membership as a result of the non-availability of pitches. - <i>Medway Sports Clubs Survey (2012)</i> .	There is some evidence of frustrated demand for rugby in the study area
Sports development initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RFU is keen to develop 'Leisure Rugby' as a game, to expand its appeal to a wider range of prospective players. - <i>'The Rugby Union Whole Sport Plan 2009 - 2013' (2009)</i>. The RFU has a national target to increase weekly participation by 2% for adult males, 30% for adult females and 30% for 16 - 19 year olds per between 2009 and 2013 which if achieved will have a significant impact on demand for rugby pitches. <i>'The Rugby Union Whole Sport Plan 2009 - 2013' (2009)</i>. 	It has been assumed that the impact of rugby development programmes will create some additional demand for pitches.
Quality of pitches/facilities	The audit of pitch quality carried out for this study identified that that two of rugby pitches are rated as below 'average' and as a result their quality may limit the quantity of rugby they can accommodate. - <i>Medway Qualitative audit (2012)</i> .	The quality of pitches is unlikely to deter participation in rugby in the study area.
National sporting success	Adult participation in rugby increased marginally by 0.1% (from 0.46% to 0.56% between 2006 and 2008). - <i>Active People Survey (2008)</i> .	National success does not seem to be directly linked to participation increases
Pricing policies	All rugby respondents to the sports clubs survey believe that pitch hire charges represent 'good' value for money and so there is no evidence that price is deterring use. - <i>Medway Sports Clubs Survey (2012)</i> .	There is no discernible impact of pricing on latent demand.
School sports curriculum	59.3% of rugby pitches with community use in the study area are on school sites. - <i>Medway Quantitative audit (2012)</i> .	Any increased use of school pitches by schools could have an effect on overall pitch availability.
Long-term impact of mini-sports	The number of junior and mini-rugby teams is lower than the number of adult teams and it is therefore unlikely that when age group participation converts into play at adult level, demand for pitches will increase substantially. - <i>Medway Sports Clubs Survey (2012)</i> .	It is likely that demand for pitches will increase as the current numbers of junior and mini-rugby players get older.
Lifestyle changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many players are prolonging their careers, which has led to the development of veteran's competitions for older players. - <i>'The Rugby Union Whole Sport Plan 2009 - 2013' (2009)</i>. The development of 'Leisure Rugby' is likely to attract a wider cross-section of players. - <i>'The Rugby Union Whole Sport Plan 2009 - 2013' (2009)</i>. 	Lifestyle changes are likely to have a limited impact on latent demand.

d) **Hockey:**

Factor	Analysis in Analysis in Medway	Impact on latent demand
Current frustrated demand	None of the hockey clubs responding to the clubs survey identified that they are unable to increase their membership as a result of the non-availability of pitches. - <i>Medway Sports Clubs Survey (2012)</i> .	There is no evidence of frustrated demand for hockey in the study area
Sports development initiatives	England Hockey wishes to attract and retain more people into the sport, in particular by retaining club members, and increasing new membership by 10,000 adults and 32,500 children. - <i>'The Right Pitches in the Right Places' (2011)</i> .	It has been assumed that any impact development programmes will create some additional hockey demand for artificial pitches.

<i>Factor</i>	<i>Analysis in Analysis in Medway</i>	<i>Impact on latent demand</i>
Quality of pitches/facilities	The audit of pitch quality carried out for this study identified that all the synthetic turf pitches are rated as better than ‘above average’ and as a result their quality will not compromise the quantity of hockey they can accommodate. - <i>Medway Qualitative audit (2012)</i> .	The quality of pitches is unlikely to deter participation in hockey in the study area.
National sporting success	Adult participation in hockey fell by 0.05% (from 0.24% to 0.19% between 2007 and 2011). - <i>Active People Survey (2011)</i> .	National success does not seem to be directly linked to participation increases
Pricing policies	All hockey respondents to the sports clubs survey believe that pitch hire charges represent ‘good’ value for money and so there is no evidence that price is deterring use. - <i>Medway Sports Clubs Survey (2012)</i> .	There is no discernible impact of pricing on latent demand.
School sports curriculum	62.5% of the synthetic turf pitches with community use in the study area are on school sites. - <i>Medway Quantitative audit (2012)</i> .	Given their high capacity to accommodate play, increased use of school pitches by schools would have no effect on overall pitch availability.
Long-term impact of mini-sports	The number of junior hockey teams is lower than the number of adult teams and it is therefore unlikely that when age group participation converts into play at adult level, demand for pitches will increase substantially. - <i>Medway Sports Clubs Survey (2012)</i> .	It is unlikely that demand for pitches will increase as the current numbers of junior players get older.
Lifestyle changes	There are no specific initiatives to encourage participation by older players, so lifestyle changes are unlikely to impact significantly upon participation rates.	Lifestyle changes are likely to have a limited impact on latent demand.

9.6 **Strategic reserve:** Another important consideration with grass pitches is the issue of maintaining a strategic reserve. This allows pitches to be ‘rested’ on a weekly or seasonal basis, to allow playing surfaces to recover and regenerate. As a general rule, the strategic reserve should equate to a minimum of 10% of the number of pitches required at the peak demand period.

9.7 **Analysis of PPM results:** The ‘raw’ data outputs of the PPM and the analysis of latent demand have been qualified as follows. Notional surpluses in one type of pitch should not be interpreted as implying that the playing field is not required, because in many instances the space can be used to accommodate pitches of a type for which there is a local deficit:

- a) **Adult football:** There is a notional surplus of 24.7 adult football pitches during the peak demand period on Sunday mornings. There is no evidence of any significant local latent demand to adjust this figure. However, an additional 10% strategic reserve of the 55.8 adult football pitches needed in the peak period reduces the notional surplus by a further 5.6 pitches to 19.1 pitches.
- b) **Youth football:** There is a significant shortfall of 29.0 youth pitches during the peak demand period on Sundays. There is no evidence of any significant local latent demand to adjust this figure. The current deficiency is managed by playing matches on senior pitches. The addition of a 10% strategic reserve of the 68.0 youth football pitches needed in the peak period increases the shortfall by 6.8 pitches to a deficit of 35.8 pitches.

- c) **Mini-Soccer:** There is a shortfall of 6.1 pitches during the peak period on Saturday mornings. There is no evidence of any significant local latent demand to adjust this figure. The addition of a 10% strategic reserve of the 28.6 mini-soccer pitches needed in the peak period increases the shortfall by 2.9 pitches to 31.5 pitches.
- d) **Cricket:** There is a ‘headline’ deficit of 4.6 pitches during the peak period in midweek, although in practice, spreading games across the five midweek evenings negates any potential shortfalls. A more accurate assessment of the deficit is the shortfall of 1.5 pitches on Saturday afternoons, although this does not take account of the three teams playing on pitches outside the district, which inflates the deficit within the study area to 3.0 pitches. An additional 10% strategic reserve of the 21.5 cricket pitches needed in the peak period increases the notional deficit by a further 2.2 pitches to 5.2 pitches.
- e) **Rugby:** There is a notional surplus of 7.5 pitches during the peak demand period on Sunday mornings. There is no evidence of any significant local latent demand to adjust this figure. An additional 10% strategic reserve of the 15.5 rugby pitches needed in the peak period decreases the surplus by 1.6 pitches, to 5.9 pitches.
- f) **Hockey:** There is a ‘headline’ deficit of 15.5 pitches in the midweek period, however spreading games across the five midweek evenings negates any actual shortfalls. Furthermore, the floodlit pitches can accommodate two games or four training sessions per evening, so effectively supply and demand are balanced.

9.8 Taking account of the above qualifications, the effective position in Medway at present, based upon the preliminary interpretation of the PPM is as follows:

<i>Pitch type</i>	<i>Effective position</i>	<i>Explanation</i>
Adult football pitches	Surplus of 19.1 pitches	The notional surplus of 24.7 pitches calculated by the PPM reduces by 5.6 pitches to take account of the strategic reserve.
Youth football pitches	Shortfall of 35.8 pitches	The deficit of 29.0 pitches calculated by the PPM increases by 6.8 pitches to take account of the strategic reserve.
Mini-soccer pitches	Deficit of 9.0 pitches	The deficit of 6.1 pitches calculated by the PPM increases by 2.9 pitches to take account of the strategic reserve.
Cricket pitches	Deficit of 5.2 pitches	The deficit of 3.0 pitches calculated by the PPM increases by 2.2 pitches to take account of the strategic reserve.
Rugby pitches	Surplus of 5.9 pitches	The surplus of 7.5 pitches calculated by the PPM decreases by 1.6 pitches to take account of the strategic reserve.
Synthetic turf pitches	Supply and demand balanced	The deficit of 15.5 pitches calculated by the PPM is managed by spreading play across the five midweek evenings and accommodating up to four sessions per pitch per evening.

Local standards of provision

9.9 **Pitches:** Based on the evidence above, the following local standards of provision were set:

<i>Pitch</i>	<i>Standard</i>	<i>Justification</i>
Adult football pitches	One adult pitch (1.2ha) per 4,300 people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing levels of provision adjusted for pitch carrying capacity equate to one pitch per 3,278 people. - <i>Medway Quantitative audit</i> (2012). The Playing Pitch Model indicates a current adjusted surplus of 19.1 pitches at the peak period, suggesting that 61.4 of the 80.5 adult pitches are required to meet existing adult demand levels (one per 4,298 people). - <i>'Playing Pitch Model'</i> (2012). 126m x 96m is the prescribed maximum size of an adult football pitch with run-offs. - <i>'Comparative Sizes of Sports Pitches and Courts'</i> (2011).
	All aspects of all pitches and ancillary facilities should rate 'average' or better.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The overall quality of 35 adult football pitches in the study area (35.7% of the total) is currently rated as below 'average'. - <i>Medway Qualitative audit</i> (2012). The quality of changing facilities is rated as below 'average' at five sites in the study area (6.1%) and a further 13 sites (18.1%) have no on-site changing provision. - <i>Medway Qualitative audit</i> (2012).
	The whole population within 15 minutes walk or drive of the nearest pitch.	Football pitch users typically travel by car and around 90% of them have a journey time of 15 minutes or less. - <i>Medway Sports Clubs Survey</i> (2012).
Youth football pitches	One youth pitch (0.75ha) per 3,500 people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing levels of provision adjusted for pitch carrying capacity equate to one pitch per 6,767 people. - <i>Medway Quantitative audit</i> (2012). The Playing Pitch Model indicates a current adjusted deficit of 35.8 pitches at the peak period, suggesting that 74.8 youth pitches are required to cater for existing demand levels (one per 3,528 people), compared with the current 39.0. - <i>'Playing Pitch Model'</i> (2012). 106.6m x 70m is the prescribed maximum size of a youth football pitch with run-offs. - <i>'Comparative Sizes of Sports Pitches and Courts'</i> (2011).
	All aspects of all pitches and ancillary facilities should rate 'average' or better.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The overall quality of 13 youth football pitches in the study area (27.1% of the total) is currently rated as below 'average'. - <i>Medway Qualitative audit</i> (2012). The quality of changing facilities is rated as below 'average' at five sites in the study area (6.1%) and a further 13 sites (18.1%) have no on-site changing provision. - <i>Medway Qualitative audit</i> (2012).
	The whole population within 15 minutes walk or drive of the nearest pitch.	Football pitch users typically travel by car and around 90% of them have a journey time of 15 minutes or less. - <i>Medway Sports Clubs Survey</i> (2012).

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Standard</i>	<i>Justification</i>
Mini-soccer pitches	One mini-soccer pitch (0.2ha) per 8,300 people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing levels of provision adjusted for pitch carrying capacity equate to one pitch per 11,729 people. - <i>Medway Quantitative audit</i> (2012). The Playing Pitch Model indicates a current adjusted deficit of 9.0 pitches at the peak period, suggesting 31.5 mini-soccer pitches are required to cater for existing demand levels (one per 8,377 people). - <i>Playing Pitch Model</i> (2012). 54.9m x 36.6m is the prescribed maximum size of a mini-soccer pitch with run-offs. - <i>Comparative Sizes of Sports Pitches and Courts</i> (2009).
	Qualitative improvements to ensure that all aspects of all pitches and ancillary facilities rate 'average' or better.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The overall quality of 5 mini-soccer pitches in the study area (20.0% of the total) is currently rated as below 'average'. - <i>Medway Qualitative audit</i> (2012). The quality of changing facilities is rated as below 'average' at five sites in the study area (6.1%) and a further 13 sites (18.1%) have no on-site changing provision. - <i>Medway Qualitative audit</i> (2012).
	The whole population within 15 minutes walk or drive of the nearest pitch.	Football pitch users typically travel by car and around 90% of them have a journey time of 15 minutes or less. - <i>Medway Sports Clubs Survey</i> (2012).
Cricket pitches	One cricket pitch (1.2ha) per 11,100 people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing levels of provision adjusted for pitch carrying capacity equate to one pitch per 14,265 people. - <i>Medway Quantitative audit</i> (2012). The Playing Pitch Model indicates there is a current adjusted deficit of 5.2 pitches in the peak period, suggesting that 23.7 cricket pitches are required to cater for existing demand levels (one per 11,135). - <i>Playing Pitch Model</i> (2012). 111.56m x 106.69m is the prescribed maximum size of a cricket pitch with run-offs. - <i>Comparative Sizes of Sports Pitches and Courts</i> (2011).
	All aspects of all pitches and ancillary facilities should rate 'average' or better.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The overall quality of one cricket pitch in the study area (5.7% of the total) is currently rated as below 'average'. - <i>Medway Qualitative audit</i> (2012). The quality of changing facilities is rated as below 'average' at five sites in the study area (6.1%) and a further 13 sites (18.1%) have no on-site changing provision. - <i>Medway Qualitative audit</i> (2012).
	The whole population within 15 minutes walk or drive of the nearest pitch.	Cricket pitch users typically travel by car and around 90% of them have a journey time of 15 minutes or less. - <i>Medway Sports Clubs Survey</i> (2012).

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Standard</i>	<i>Justification</i>
Rugby pitches	One rugby pitch (1.25ha) per 16,400 people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing levels of provision adjusted for pitch carrying capacity equate to one pitch per 11,474 people. - <i>Medway Quantitative audit</i> (2012). The Playing Pitch Model indicates a current adjusted surplus of 6.9 pitches at the peak period, suggesting that 16.1 pitches are required to meet existing demand levels (one per 16,391). - <i>'Playing Pitch Model'</i> (2012). 154m x 80m is the prescribed maximum size of a rugby pitch with run-offs. - <i>'Comparative Sizes of Sports Pitches and Courts'</i> (2011).
	All aspects of all pitches and ancillary facilities should rate 'average' or better.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The overall quality of two rugby pitches in the study area (8.3% of the total) is currently rated as below 'average'. - <i>Medway Qualitative audit</i> (2012). The quality of changing facilities is rated as below 'average' at five sites in the study area (6.1%) and a further 13 sites (18.1%) have no on-site changing provision. - <i>Medway Qualitative audit</i> (2012).
	The whole population within 20 minutes walk or drive of the nearest pitch.	Rugby pitch users typically travel by car and around 90% of them have a journey time of 20 minutes or less. - <i>Medway Sports Clubs Survey</i> (2012).
Synthetic turf pitches	One synthetic turf pitch per 32,000 people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing levels of provision equate to one pitch per 32,988 people. - <i>Medway Quantitative audit</i> (2012). The number of synthetic turf pitches per capita in Medway is the highest figure for neighbouring areas, well above the median figure of 1 per 53,028, which suggests that existing levels of are above the norm for similar areas. - <i>Medway Quantitative audit</i> (2012). The Kent FA identified a need for an additional 8.7 '3G' Football Turf pitches in Medway, although this is an aspirational standard which assumes that all football teams in the study area will wish to use a 3G pitch once a week. - <i>Kent FA</i> (2012). The Playing Pitch Model indicates that supply and demand are broadly balanced in the peak period, suggesting that 8 synthetic turf pitches are required to cater for existing demand levels (one per 32,988). - <i>'Playing Pitch Model'</i> (2012).
	All aspects of all pitches and ancillary facilities should rate 'average' or better.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All synthetic turf pitches in the study area are currently rated as 'average' or better. - <i>Medway Qualitative audit</i> (2012). The quality of changing facilities at all synthetic turf pitches in the study area is rated as above 'average'. - <i>Medway Qualitative audit</i> (2012).
	The whole population within 20 minutes walk or drive of the nearest pitch.	Synthetic turf pitch users typically travel by car and around 90% of them have a journey time of 20 minutes or less. - <i>Medway Sports Clubs Survey</i> (2012).

9.10 **Outdoor sports facilities:** Based upon the outcomes of the qualitative, quantitative and accessibility audits, plus the local consultation, the following standards were set for outdoor sports facilities:

Facility	Standard	Justification
Athletics tracks	One 400m synthetic track per 250,000 people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The existing tracks in the study area serve a population of 263,900, equivalent to one track per 131,950 people. - <i>Medway Quantitative Audit</i> (2012). • UK Athletics recommends one 6-lane track per 250,000 people. - '<i>Athletics Facilities Strategy for the UK</i>' (2007). • Medway has the second highest level of provision of its neighbouring local authorities. - <i>Medway Quantitative audit</i> (2012).
	All aspects of a track and its ancillary facilities should rate 'average' or better.	All aspects of the quality of both the current tracks are rated as at least above 'average'. - <i>Medway Qualitative Audit</i> (2012).
	The whole population within 20 minutes walk or drive of the nearest track.	UK Athletics recommends one 6-lane 400m synthetic athletics track within 20 minutes drive time. - <i>Athletics Facilities Strategy for the UK</i> (2007).
Bowls greens	One outdoor bowls green per 25,000 people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing levels of provision equate to one outdoor bowls green per 26,390 people - <i>Medway Quantitative Audit</i> (2012). • The number of outdoor bowls greens per capita in Medway is the poorest for its neighbouring local authorities, well below the median figure of 1 per 20,568, which suggests that existing levels of provision are below the norm for similar areas. - <i>Medway Quantitative audit</i> (2012). • Sport England's Market Segmentation data suggests that given the demographic profile of the study area, demand for bowls should be above the national average. - <i>Market Segmentation data</i> (2012). • 100.0% of respondents to the sports clubs survey believe that existing levels of bowls provision are 'about right', so a standard close to current levels of provision is justifiable. - <i>Medway Sports Clubs Survey</i> (2012).
	All aspects of all outdoor bowls facilities should rate 'average' or better.	The overall quality of all outdoor bowls facilities in the study area is currently very variable, particularly for disabled and general access. - <i>Medway Qualitative Audit</i> (2012).
	The whole population within 20 minutes walk or drive of an outdoor bowls facility.	'The majority of facility users will live locally and travel not more than 20 minutes. 90% of users will travel by car'. - ' <i>Bowls Design Guidance</i> ' (2005)
Tennis courts	One outdoor tennis court per 3,000 people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing levels of provision equate to one outdoor tennis court per 3,939 people - <i>Medway Quantitative Audit</i> (2012). • The number of outdoor tennis courts per capita in Medway is the poorest figure for neighbouring areas, well below the median figure of 1 per 2,562, which suggests that existing levels of are below the norm for similar areas. - <i>Medway Quantitative audit</i> (2012). • 100.0% of respondents to the sports clubs survey believe that existing levels of tennis court provision locally are 'about right'. - <i>Medway Sports Clubs Survey</i> (2012).
	All aspects of all outdoor tennis courts should rate 'average' or better.	Several aspects of the quality of some tennis courts in the study area are rated as 'average' quality or below. - <i>Medway Qualitative Audit</i> (2012).
	The whole population within 15 minutes walk or drive of an outdoor tennis court.	Research commissioned by the Lawn Tennis Association revealed that outdoor tennis court users typically travel for up to 15 minutes to reach their chosen facility and more than 70% travel by car. - <i>LTA</i> (2002).

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Standard</i>	<i>Justification</i>
Golf courses	One 18-hole golf course per 50,000 people, or one hole per 2,850 people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing levels of provision equate to one 18-hole golf course per 105,560 people, or one hole per 5,864 people. - <i>Medway Quantitative Audit</i> (2012). The English Golf Union states that in the country as a whole, ‘supply of golf courses currently exceeds demand, with membership vacancies existing in the majority of golf clubs. Nevertheless, it is important to note that participation rates are still rising’. Current levels of provision are therefore a reasonable basis for setting standards - <i>Golf Development Strategic Plan 2004-2014</i>’ (EGU, 2004). The number of golf courses and holes per capita in Medway is well below the median figure for neighbouring local authorities of one course per 46,824 and one hole per 2,601 people, which suggests that existing levels of provision are below the norm for similar areas. - <i>Medway Quantitative Audit</i> (2012). Existing levels of provision in Medway equate to 0.21 holes per 1,000 people, less than one-third of the national average figure of 0.68 holes per 1,000 people. - ‘<i>The Medway Open Space Study</i>’ (2012). Sport England’s Market Segmentation data suggests that given the demographic profile of the study area, demand for golf should be above the national average. - <i>Market Segmentation data</i> (2012).
	All aspects of all golf courses should rate ‘average’ or better.	Most aspects of the quality of the most golf facilities in the study area are currently rated as ‘average’ or better. - <i>Medway Qualitative Audit</i> (2012).
	The whole population within 20 minutes walk or drive of a golf course.	Research commissioned by the English Golf Union revealed that golfers typically travel for up to 20 minutes to reach their chosen course and more than 90% travel by car. - <i>EGU</i> (2004).
MUGAs	One MUGA per 10,000 people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing levels of provision equate to one MUGA per 14,661 people - <i>Medway Quantitative Audit</i> (2012). The number of MUGAs per capita in Medway is well below the figure for neighbouring Gravesham of one MUGA per 9,960 people, which suggests that existing levels of provision are below the norm for similar areas. - <i>Medway Quantitative audit</i> (2012).
	Qualitative improvements to ensure that all aspects of all facilities rate ‘average’ or better.	The overall quality of all MUGAs currently rates as ‘average’ or better. - <i>Medway Qualitative Audit</i> (2012).
	The whole population within 10 minutes walk of the nearest MUGA.	Most MUGA users live close to their chosen facility, with 10 minutes being the typical maximum travel time and walking being the commonest form of travel. - ‘ <i>The Medway Open Space Study</i> ’ (2012)

Applying the standards

9.11 **Introduction:** The tables below contain the results of applying the playing pitch standards, both now and in 2028, the latter based upon an anticipated population increase of 16,100 people, or 6.1%. Where catchments are localised, deficiencies have been assessed at a sub-area level, but for facilities with a wider catchment, the analysis has been conducted on a Medway-wide basis.

9.12 Adult football pitches:

a) Chatham:

<i>Assessed criterion</i>	<i>Assessed position</i>
Current provision	24 pitches (22.5 adjusted for pitch carrying capacity).
Current needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency (notional surplus of 1.0 pitch), but need to secure access to pitches on school sites. • Quality improvements needed for pitches at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Barnfield Playing Fields - Bishop of Rochester Academy - Snodhurst Bottom • Quality improvements needed to changing at Bishop of Rochester Academy. • No accessibility deficiency.
Future needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.0 additional pitch (accommodated by current notional surplus). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes walk or drive of new developments.
Total future needs	23 pitches.

b) Gillingham:

<i>Assessed criterion</i>	<i>Assessed position</i>
Current provision	29 pitches (21 adjusted for pitch carrying capacity).
Current needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency (notional surplus of 7.8 pitches), but need to secure access to pitches on school sites. • Quality improvements needed for pitches at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Great Lines Heritage Park - Hempstead Recreation Ground - Kings Frith • Quality improvements needed to changing provision at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Great Lines Heritage Park - Kings Frith • No accessibility deficiency.
Future needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.9 additional pitches (accommodated by current notional surplus). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes walk or drive of new developments.
Total future needs	14 pitches.

c) Rochester:

<i>Assessed criterion</i>	<i>Assessed position</i>
Current provision	13 pitches (11 adjusted for pitch carrying capacity).
Current needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency (notional surplus of 6.4 pitches), but need to secure access to pitches on school sites. • Quality improvements needed for pitches at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Holcombe Hockey and Sports Club - Rochester School for Girls - Wouldham Recreation Ground • Quality improvements needed to changing provision at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Borstal Recreation Ground - Wouldham Recreation Ground • No accessibility deficiency.
Future needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.5 additional pitches (accommodated by current notional surplus). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes walk or drive of new developments.
Total future needs	6 pitches.

d) **Rainham:**

<i>Assessed criterion</i>	<i>Assessed position</i>
Current provision	11 pitches (9 adjusted for pitch carrying capacity).
Current needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No quantitative deficiency (notional surplus of 1.5 pitches), but need to secure access to pitches on school sites. ● Quality improvements needed for pitches at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Beechings Way Recreation Ground - Cozenton Park - Ryetop Playing Fields ● Quality improvements needed to changing provision at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Beechings Way Recreation Ground - Cozenton Park - Ryetop Playing Field ● No accessibility deficiency.
Future needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 0.5 additional pitches (accommodated by current notional surplus). ● All aspects of quality above average. ● Within 15 minutes walk or drive of new developments.
Total future needs	9 pitches.

e) **Strood and Rural:**

<i>Assessed criterion</i>	<i>Assessed position</i>
Current provision	21 pitches (19 adjusted for pitch carrying capacity).
Current needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No quantitative deficiency (notional surplus of 3.6 pitches), but need to secure access to pitches on school sites. ● Quality improvements needed for pitches at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - APCM Recreation Ground - Cuxton Recreation Ground - Deangate Ridge - St. James's Park, Grain - Wainscott Recreation Ground ● Quality improvements needed to changing provision at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - St. James's Park, Grain - Wainscott Recreation Ground ● No accessibility deficiency.
Future needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 0.9 additional pitches (accommodated by current notional surplus). ● All aspects of quality above average. ● Within 15 minutes walk or drive of new developments.
Total future needs	16 pitches.

9.13 Youth football pitches:

a) Chatham:

<i>Assessed criterion</i>	<i>Assessed position</i>
Current provision	8 pitches (6.5 adjusted for pitch carrying capacity).
Current needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 additional pitches (9.75ha) and need to secure access to school sites. • Quality improvements needed for pitches at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Barnfield Playing Fields - Horstead Junior School • No improvements needed to changing provision serving youth pitches • No substantive accessibility deficiency.
Future needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.2 additional pitches once the existing deficiency has been met (0.75ha) • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes walk or drive of new developments.
Total future needs	21 pitches.

b) Gillingham:

<i>Assessed criterion</i>	<i>Assessed position</i>
Current provision	11 pitches (7.5 adjusted for pitch carrying capacity).
Current needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 additional pitches (9.0ha) and need to secure access to school sites. • Quality improvements needed for pitches at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hempstead Recreation Ground - Kings Frith • Quality improvements needed to changing provision at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kings Frith - New Brompton College • No substantive accessibility deficiency.
Future needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.1 additional pitches once the existing deficiency has been met (0.75ha). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes walk or drive of new developments.
Total future needs	21 pitches.

c) Rochester:

<i>Assessed criterion</i>	<i>Assessed position</i>
Current provision	5 pitches (4.0 adjusted for pitch carrying capacity).
Current needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 additional pitches (3.75ha) and need to secure access to school sites. • Quality improvements needed for pitches at Holcombe Sports Club • Quality improvements needed to changing provision at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Balfour Recreation Ground - Borstal Recreation Ground • No substantive accessibility deficiency.
Future needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.6 additional pitches once the existing deficiency has been met (0.75ha). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes walk or drive of new developments.
Total future needs	10 pitches.

d) **Rainham:**

<i>Assessed criterion</i>	<i>Assessed position</i>
Current provision	7 pitches (5.5 adjusted for pitch carrying capacity).
Current needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 additional pitches (5.25ha) and need to secure access to school sites. • Quality improvements needed for pitches at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Featherby Junior School - Rainham School for Girls - Ryetop Playing Field • Quality improvements needed to changing provision at Ryetop Playing Field. • No substantive accessibility deficiency.
Future needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.6 additional pitches once the existing deficiency has been met (0.75ha). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes walk or drive of new developments.
Total future needs	13 pitches.

e) **Strood and Rural:**

<i>Assessed criterion</i>	<i>Assessed position</i>
Current provision	17 pitches (15.5 adjusted for pitch carrying capacity).
Current needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency (notional surplus of 1 pitch), but need to secure access to pitches on school sites. • Quality improvements needed for pitches at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - APCM Recreation Ground - Seaview Meadows, Grain - Sherwin Knight School - Upper Halling Recreation Ground - Wainscott Recreation Ground • Quality improvements needed to changing provision at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seaview Meadows, Grain - Upper Halling Recreation Ground - Wainscott Recreation Ground • No substantive accessibility deficiency.
Future needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.1 additional pitches (accommodated by current notional surplus). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes walk or drive of new developments.
Total future needs	16 pitches.

9.14 **Mini-soccer pitches:**

a) **Chatham:**

<i>Assessed criterion</i>	<i>Assessed position</i>
Current provision	4 pitches (3 adjusted for pitch carrying capacity).
Current needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 additional pitches (1.2ha) and need to secure access to school sites. • Quality improvements needed for pitches at Spinnens Acre School • No quality improvements needed to changing serving mini-soccer pitches. • No substantive accessibility deficiency.
Future needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.5 additional pitches (0.2ha). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes walk or drive of new developments.
Total future needs	10 pitches.

b) **Gillingham:**

<i>Assessed criterion</i>	<i>Assessed position</i>
Current provision	6 pitches.
Current needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency (supply and demand balanced), but need to secure access to pitches on school sites. • No pitch or changing quality improvements needed. • No substantive accessibility deficiency.
Future needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.5 additional pitches (0.2ha). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes walk or drive of new developments.
Total future needs	7 pitches.

c) **Rochester:**

<i>Assessed criterion</i>	<i>Assessed position</i>
Current provision	2 pitches.
Current needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 additional pitch (0.2ha) and need to secure access to pitches on school sites. • No pitch or changing quality improvements needed. • No substantive accessibility deficiency.
Future needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.25 additional pitches (accommodated by extra pitch to meet current needs). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes walk or drive of new developments.
Total future needs	3 pitches.

d) **Rainham:**

<i>Assessed criterion</i>	<i>Assessed position</i>
Current provision	4 pitches (3 adjusted for pitch carrying capacity).
Current needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 additional pitches (0.6ha) and need to secure access to school sites. • Quality improvements needed for pitches at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cozenton Park - Featherby Junior School - St. Thomas of Canterbury School • Quality improvements needed to changing provision at Cozenton Park. • No substantive accessibility deficiency.
Future needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.25 additional pitches (accommodated by extra pitches to meet current needs). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes walk or drive of new developments.
Total future needs	6 pitches.

e) **Strood and Rural:**

<i>Assessed criterion</i>	<i>Assessed position</i>
Current provision	9 pitches (8.5 adjusted for pitch carrying capacity).
Current needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency (notional surplus of 4.2 pitches), but need to secure access to pitches on school sites. • Quality improvements needed for pitches and changing provision at Seaview Meadows, Grain. • No substantive accessibility deficiency.
Future needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.5 additional pitches (accommodated by current notional surplus). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes walk or drive of new developments.
Total future needs	5 pitches.

9.15 Cricket pitches:

a) Chatham:

<i>Assessed criterion</i>	<i>Assessed position</i>
Current provision	3 pitches.
Current needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency (notional surplus of 0.2 pitches). • No pitch or changing quality improvements needed. • No substantive accessibility deficiency.
Future needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No additional requirements (extra demand met by current notional surplus). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes walk or drive of new developments.
Total future needs	3 pitches.

b) Gillingham:

<i>Assessed criterion</i>	<i>Assessed position</i>
Current provision	1 pitch.
Current needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency (notional surplus of 0.2 pitches), but need to secure access to pitches on school sites. • No pitch or changing quality improvements needed. • No substantive accessibility deficiency.
Future needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No additional requirements (extra demand met by current notional surplus). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes walk or drive of new developments.
Total future needs	1 pitch.

c) Rochester:

<i>Assessed criterion</i>	<i>Assessed position</i>
Current provision	8 pitches (7.5 adjusted for pitch carrying capacity).
Current needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.4 additional pitches (2.4ha) and need to secure access to school sites. • Quality improvements needed for cricket pitch at Holcombe Sports Club. • Quality improvements needed to changing provision at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brambletrees - Kings School Rochester (Alps) • No substantive accessibility deficiency.
Future needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.2 additional pitches (accommodated by extra pitches to meet current needs). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes walk or drive of new developments.
Total future needs	10 pitches.

d) Rainham:

<i>Assessed criterion</i>	<i>Assessed position</i>
Current provision	2 pitches.
Current needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.5 additional pitches (2.4ha) and need to secure access to school sites. • No pitch quality improvements needed. • Quality improvements needed to changing provision at Rainham Cricket Club • No substantive accessibility deficiency.
Future needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.2 additional pitches (accommodated by extra pitches to meet current needs). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes walk or drive of new developments.
Total future needs	4 pitches.

e) **Strood and Rural:**

<i>Assessed criterion</i>	<i>Assessed position</i>
Current provision	5 pitches.
Current needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.5 additional pitches (2.4ha) and need to secure access to school sites. • No pitch or changing quality improvements needed. • No substantive accessibility deficiency.
Future needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.3 additional pitches (accommodated by extra pitches to meet current needs). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes walk or drive of new developments.
Total future needs	7 pitches.

9.16 **Rugby pitches:**

a) **Chatham:**

<i>Assessed criterion</i>	<i>Assessed position</i>
Current provision	4 pitches.
Current needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency (notional surplus of 2.5 pitches), but need to secure access to pitches on school sites. • No pitch or changing quality improvements needed. • No substantive accessibility deficiency.
Future needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.2 additional pitches (accommodated by current notional surplus). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 20 minutes walk or drive of new developments.
Total future needs	4 pitches.

b) **Gillingham:**

<i>Assessed criterion</i>	<i>Assessed position</i>
Current provision	6 pitches.
Current needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shortfall of 0.5 pitches (1.2ha) and need to secure access to school sites. • No pitch or changing quality improvements needed. • No substantive accessibility deficiency.
Future needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.2 additional pitches (accommodated by extra pitch to meet current needs). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 20 minutes walk or drive of new developments.
Total future needs	7 pitches.

c) **Rochester:**

<i>Assessed criterion</i>	<i>Assessed position</i>
Current provision	12 pitches (11 adjusted for pitch carrying capacity).
Current needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency (notional surplus of 3.5 pitches), but Medway RFC needs one additional pitch at Priestfield Recreation Ground at peak periods and need to secure access to school sites. • Quality improvements needed for pitches at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bishop of Rochester Academy - Holcombe Hockey and Sports Club • Quality improvements needed to changing at Bishop of Rochester Academy. • No substantive accessibility deficiency.
Future needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.1 additional pitches (accommodated by current notional surplus). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 20 minutes walk or drive of new developments.
Total future needs	9 pitches.

d) **Rainham:**

<i>Assessed criterion</i>	<i>Assessed position</i>
Current provision	0 pitches.
Current needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency. • No pitch or changing quality improvements needed. • No substantive accessibility deficiency.
Future needs	No additional requirements.
Total future needs	0 pitches.

e) **Strood and Rural:**

<i>Assessed criterion</i>	<i>Assessed position</i>
Current provision	2 pitches.
Current needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency (notional surplus of 2.0 pitches). • No pitch or changing quality improvements needed. • No substantive accessibility deficiency.
Future needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.2 additional pitches (accommodated by current notional surplus). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 20 minutes walk or drive of new developments.
Total future needs	2 pitches.

9.17 **Synthetic turf pitches:**

a) **Chatham:**

<i>Assessed criterion</i>	<i>Assessed position</i>
Current provision	1 pitch.
Current needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency. • No qualitative deficiency. • No substantive accessibility deficiency.
Future needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.5 additional pitches (0.6ha). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 20 minutes walk or drive of new developments.
Total future needs	1.5 pitches.

b) **Gillingham:**

<i>Assessed criterion</i>	<i>Assessed position</i>
Current provision	2 pitches.
Current needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency. • No qualitative deficiency. • No substantive accessibility deficiency.
Future needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No additional pitches (additional demand accommodated by existing pitches). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 20 minutes walk or drive of new developments.
Total future needs	2 pitches.

c) **Rochester:**

<i>Assessed criterion</i>	<i>Assessed position</i>
Current provision	4 pitches.
Current needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency. • No qualitative deficiency, however Sir Joseph Williamson School and one of the pitches at Holcombe Sports Club were installed in 1999 and 2003 respectively and are therefore likely to need resurfacing in the near future. Consideration should be given to a '3G' surface at both sites. • No substantive accessibility deficiency.
Future needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No additional pitches (additional demand accommodated by existing pitches). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 20 minutes walk or drive of new developments.
Total future needs	4 pitches.

d) **Rainham:**

<i>Assessed criterion</i>	<i>Assessed position</i>
Current provision	0 pitches.
Current needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency (needs met by 8 small-sided pitches at Play Football.net and full-sized pitches in the Gillingham sub-area). • No qualitative deficiency. • No substantive accessibility deficiency.
Future needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No additional pitches (additional demand accommodated by existing pitches). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 20 minutes walk or drive of new developments.
Total future needs	0 pitches.

e) **Strood and Rural:**

<i>Assessed criterion</i>	<i>Assessed position</i>
Current provision	1 pitch.
Current needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency. • No qualitative deficiency. • No substantive accessibility deficiency.
Future needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No additional pitches (additional demand accommodated by existing pitch). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 20 minutes walk or drive of new developments.
Total future needs	1 pitches.

9.18 **Athletics tracks:**

<i>Assessed criterion</i>	<i>Assessed position</i>
Current provision	2 tracks.
Current needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency. • No qualitative deficiency. • No substantive accessibility deficiency.
Future needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency (extra demand can be accommodated by the existing tracks). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 20 minutes walk or drive of new developments.
Total future needs	2 tracks.

9.19 **Bowling greens:**

a) **Chatham:**

<i>Assessed criterion</i>	<i>Assessed position</i>
Current provision	1 bowling green.
Current needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency. • Quality improvements needed for disabled and general access at Chatham BC. • No current substantive accessibility deficiency.
Future needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 additional bowling green (1.0ha). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes walk or drive of new developments.
Total future needs	2 bowling greens.

b) **Gillingham:**

<i>Assessed criterion</i>	<i>Assessed position</i>
Current provision	2 bowling greens.
Current needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency. • Quality improvements needed for disabled and/or general access at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Palm Cottage Bowls Club - Sturdee Gillingham Bowls Club • No current substantive accessibility deficiency.
Future needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No additional greens (additional demand accommodated by existing greens). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes walk or drive of new developments.
Total future needs	2 bowling greens.

c) **Rochester:**

<i>Assessed criterion</i>	<i>Assessed position</i>
Current provision	3 bowling greens.
Current needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency. • Quality improvements needed for disabled and/or general access at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Borstal Bowls Club - Jackson's Recreation Ground • No current substantive accessibility deficiency.
Future needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No additional greens (additional demand accommodated by existing greens). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes walk or drive of new developments.
Total future needs	3 bowling greens.

d) **Rainham:**

<i>Assessed criterion</i>	<i>Assessed position</i>
Current provision	1 bowling green.
Current needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency. • Quality improvements needed for disabled and general access at Civil Service (Chatham) Bowls Club. • No current substantive accessibility deficiency.
Future needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No additional greens (additional demand accommodated by existing greens). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes walk or drive of new developments.
Total future needs	1 bowling green.

e) **Strood and Rural:**

<i>Assessed criterion</i>	<i>Assessed position</i>
Current provision	3 bowling greens.
Current needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency. • No qualitative deficiency. • No substantive accessibility deficiency.
Future needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No additional greens (additional demand accommodated by existing greens). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes walk or drive of new developments.
Total future needs	3 bowling greens.

9.20 **Tennis courts:**

a) **Chatham:**

<i>Assessed criterion</i>	<i>Assessed position</i>
Current provision	15 tennis courts.
Current needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shortfall of 8 tennis courts. • Quality improvements needed for disabled and/or general access at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Greenacre School - Walderslade School for Girls • No substantive accessibility deficiency.
Future needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.4 additional tennis courts (0.2ha) once existing deficiencies have been met. • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes walk or drive of new developments.
Total future needs	25 tennis courts.

b) **Gillingham:**

<i>Assessed criterion</i>	<i>Assessed position</i>
Current provision	11 tennis courts.
Current needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shortfall of 10 tennis courts. • Quality improvements needed for disabled and general access at Avenue TC. • No substantive accessibility deficiency.
Future needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.3 additional tennis courts (0.2ha) once existing deficiencies have been met. • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes walk or drive of new developments.
Total future needs	23 tennis courts.

c) **Rochester:**

<i>Assessed criterion</i>	<i>Assessed position</i>
Current provision	18 tennis courts.
Current needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency (notional surplus of 6 courts). • Quality improvements needed for disabled and general access at City TC. • No substantive accessibility deficiency.
Future needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No additional courts (additional demand accommodated by existing courts). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes walk or drive of new developments.
Total future needs	18 tennis courts.

d) **Rainham:**

<i>Assessed criterion</i>	<i>Assessed position</i>
Current provision	7 tennis courts.
Current needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shortfall of 5 tennis courts. • Quality improvements needed to disabled and general access at Wigmore Park • No substantive accessibility deficiency.
Future needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.7 additional tennis courts (0.1ha) once existing deficiencies have been met. • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes walk or drive of new developments.
Total future needs	13 tennis courts.

e) **Strood and Rural:**

<i>Assessed criterion</i>	<i>Assessed position</i>
Current provision	16 tennis courts.
Current needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shortfall of 4 tennis courts. • Quality improvements needed for disabled and general access at APCM Recreation Ground • No substantive accessibility deficiency.
Future needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.2 additional tennis courts (0.2ha) once existing deficiencies have been met. • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes walk or drive of new developments.
Total future needs	22 tennis courts.

9.21 **Golf courses:**

<i>Assessed criterion</i>	<i>Assessed position</i>
Current provision	2.5 x 18 hole golf course units.
Current needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shortfall of 2.5 x 18 hole golf course units (175.0ha). • Qualitative improvements needs at Allhallows Golf Course. • No substantive accessibility deficiency.
Future needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.3 additional 18 hole golf course units (9 holes - 35.0ha), once existing deficiencies have been met. • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 20 minutes walk or drive of new developments.
Total future needs	5.5 x 18 hole golf course units.

9.22 **MUGAs:**

a) **Chatham:**

<i>Assessed criterion</i>	<i>Assessed position</i>
Current provision	7 MUGAs.
Current needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency. • No qualitative deficiency. • No substantive accessibility deficiency.
Future needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.4 additional MUGAs (0.1ha). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 10 minutes walk of new developments.
Total future needs	8 MUGAs.

b) **Gillingham:**

<i>Assessed criterion</i>	<i>Assessed position</i>
Current provision	1 MUGA.
Current needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shortfall of 5 MUGAs. • No qualitative deficiency. • Accessibility deficiencies in the south of the sub-area.
Future needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 additional MUGA (0.1ha) once existing deficiencies have been met. • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 10 minutes walk of new developments.
Total future needs	7 MUGAs.

c) **Rochester:**

<i>Assessed criterion</i>	<i>Assessed position</i>
Current provision	2 MUGAs.
Current needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shortfall of 1 MUGA. • Quality improvements needed to access at Copperfield Park MUGA. • Accessibility deficiencies in the west and south of the sub-area.
Future needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.5 additional MUGAs (0.1ha) once existing deficiencies have been met. • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 10 minutes walk of new developments.
Total future needs	4 MUGAs.

d) **Rainham:**

<i>Assessed criterion</i>	<i>Assessed position</i>
Current provision	0 MUGAs.
Current needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shortfall of 3 MUGAs. • No qualitative deficiencies. • Accessibility deficiencies throughout the sub-area.
Future needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.6 additional MUGAs (0.1ha) once existing deficiencies have been met. • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 10 minutes walk of new developments.
Total future needs	4 MUGAs.

e) **Strood and Rural:**

<i>Assessed criterion</i>	<i>Assessed position</i>
Current provision	7 MUGAs.
Current needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency. • No qualitative deficiency. • No substantive accessibility deficiency.
Future needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No additional MUGAs (additional demand accommodated by existing MUGAs) • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 10 minutes walk of new developments.
Total future needs	7 MUGAs.

Summary of playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities needs

9.23 **Quantitative needs:** The table below summarises the additional playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities needs, both now and in 2028, the latter based upon an anticipated population increase of 16,100 people and rounded up to represent the nearest whole facility. Pitch carrying capacity is shown in brackets:

<i>Facility type</i>	<i>Provision in 2012</i>	<i>Needs in 2012</i>	<i>Extra needs in 2028</i>	<i>Total needs in 2028</i>
Adult football pitches	98 (80.5)	61.4	3.7	66
Youth football pitches	48 (39)	74.8	4.6	81
Mini-soccer pitches	25 (22.5)	32.5	1.9	35
Cricket pitches	19 (18.5)	22.9	0.7	24
Rugby pitches	24 (22)	17.1	0.7	18
Synthetic turf pitches	8	8	0.5	8.5
Athletics tracks	2	2	0	2
Bowling greens	10	10	0.6	11
Tennis courts	67	88	4.6	93
Golf courses	2.5	5	0.3	5.5
MUGAs	18	27	2.5	30

9.24 In terms of the additional land take (including run-offs/safety margins) required to meet the identified shortfalls, were the deficiencies to be met by making entirely new provision, the implications for current and future requirements are as follows:

a) **Current shortfalls:** The total requirements are for an additional 213.1ha.

<i>Facility type</i>	<i>Extra facilities needed</i>	<i>Area per facility (Ha)</i>	<i>Total land take (Ha)</i>
Adult football pitches	0	1.2ha	0
Youth football pitches	36	0.75ha	27.0ha
Mini-soccer pitches	11	0.2ha	2.2ha
Cricket pitches	5	1.2ha	6.0ha
Rugby pitches	0	1.25ha	0
Synthetic turf pitches	0	1.2ha	0
Athletics tracks	0	2.0ha	0
Bowling greens	0	1.0ha	0
Tennis courts	21	0.1ha	2.1ha
Golf courses	2.5	70.0ha	175.0ha
MUGAs	8	0.1ha	0.8ha

b) **Future shortfalls:** The total requirements are for an additional 44.0ha.

<i>Facility type</i>	<i>Extra facilities needed</i>	<i>Area per facility (Ha)</i>	<i>Total land take (Ha)</i>
Adult football pitches	0	1.2ha	0
Youth football pitches	5	0.75ha	3.75ha
Mini-soccer pitches	2	0.2ha	0.4ha
Cricket pitches	1	1.2ha	1.2ha
Rugby pitches	1	1.25ha	1.25ha
Synthetic turf pitches	0.5	1.2ha	0.6ha
Athletics tracks	0	2.0ha	0
Bowling greens	1	1.0ha	1.0ha
Tennis courts	5	0.1ha	0.5ha
Golf courses	0.5	70.0ha	35.0ha
MUGAs	3	0.1ha	0.3ha

9.25 **Qualitative needs:** The table below summarises the current quality of provision:

a) **Playing pitches:**

<i>Pitch type</i>	<i>No. pitches below 'average'</i>	<i>% pitches below 'average'</i>
Adult football	35	35.7%
Youth football	18	37.5%
Mini-soccer	5	20.0%
Cricket	1	5.7%
Rugby	2	8.3%
Synthetic turf pitches	0	0.0%

b) **Outdoor sports facilities:** The number and percentage of facilities with aspects that are scored below 'average' are as follows:

<i>Facility type</i>	<i>No. facilities below 'average'</i>	<i>% facilities below 'average'</i>
Athletics tracks	0	0.0%
Bowling greens	6	60.0%
Tennis courts	7	38.9%
Golf courses	1	33.3%
MUGAs	1	5.6%

X. PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES PLANNING POLICY

Introduction

10.1 This section examines the considerations that Medway Council will take into account in finalising playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities planning policies in the study area.

Planning policy principles

10.2 ***Locally derived standards of provision:*** The National Planning Policy Framework states that ‘planning policies should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. The information gained from this assessment of needs and opportunities should be used to set locally derived standards for the provision of open space, sports and recreational facilities’. The standards of provision proposed in the Medway Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports facilities Study are accordingly based upon a detailed assessment of local needs.

10.3 ***Minimum standards of provision:*** The standards of provision should be regarded as the minimum levels required to meet existing needs. This means that it will be appropriate to:

- a) Seek higher levels of provision in appropriate circumstances where opportunities permit it.
- b) Regularly review and amend the standards as needs like increased rates of physical activity evolve over time.

10.4 ***Existing and new developments:*** In many of the more densely populated urban parts of the study area, the potential to meet identified deficiencies in playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities are limited by the absence of opportunities in such built-up areas. However, the opportunities presented by new developments may offer the flexibility to achieve enhanced levels of greenspace provision, recognising that the current standards represent an assessment of the minimum amounts that are needed.

10.5 ***Quality of provision:*** Quality criteria were set to define the condition to which pitches and outdoor sports facilities in the study area should aspire. The quality of each site was assessed in relation to a set of objective criteria relating to wider norms and over time all identified qualitative deficiencies will be addressed progressively as resources and opportunities allow.

10.6 ***Multi-functionality:*** The wider open space functions of playing pitches will be taken into account in assessing their overall contribution to the overall stock of local greenspace provision. The multi-function nature of many pitch sites is such that they may be used for their primary function for only 1.5 hours per week but meet several other community needs as amenity greenspace for the remainder of the time. Even where a site might notionally be surplus to provision based upon its sporting function, therefore, its subsidiary roles will also be taken into account in assessing need.

10.7 ***Provision relating to new developments:*** It is suggested that the following principles should apply:

- a) All new developments which result in an increase in the number of dwellings should contribute towards the provision of playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities. For smaller developments where on-site provision is not achievable, a financial contribution will be sought from developers towards the improvement of provision elsewhere, where appropriate schemes can be identified within the defined catchment.
- b) The precise nature, composition and size of pitch and outdoor sports facilities provision in new developments will be determined in relation to the overall size of the development and with reference to the minimum standards of provision, but for example it is anticipated that financial contributions will relate to the size of each dwelling and their anticipated occupancy rates.

10.8 ***'Surplus' provision:*** In some instances the application of the local standards produces an apparent 'surplus' of provision. However, this should not automatically be interpreted as signifying that the 'surplus' can be disposed of because:

- a) The standards against which the 'surplus' was assessed are the minimum that are required to meet current local needs. Local concentrations of existing demand and future increases in usage will both inflate the amount of provision needed to levels well above the minimum stipulation.
- b) An apparent 'surplus' in one form of provision (for example adult football pitches) will often be required to compensate for shortfalls in other types of provision locally (for example youth football pitches).

Summary of policy considerations

10.9 ***Planning policy principles:*** The key considerations in developing playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities planning policy are as follows:

- a) ***Planning standards:*** The standards of provision proposed in the study are based upon a detailed assessment of local needs and provide a robust and defensible means of defining the adequacy of provision.
- b) ***Minimum standards of provision:*** The standards of provision should be regarded as the minimum levels required to meet existing needs.
- c) ***Existing and new developments:*** New residential developments may offer the opportunity to achieve enhanced levels of pitch and outdoor sports facilities provision, recognising that the current standards represent the minimum amounts that are needed.
- d) ***Quality of provision:*** Quality criteria were set to define the condition to which each pitch type in the study area should aspire.
- e) ***Multi-functionality:*** Many pitch sites serve other open space functions and therefore even where a site might notionally be surplus to provision based upon its primary function, it may serve other subsidiary roles.

- f) ***Provision relating to new developments:*** All residential developments should make appropriate provision for playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities. For smaller developments where on-site provision is not achievable, a financial contribution will be sought from developers towards the improvement of provision elsewhere.
- g) ***'Surplus' provision:*** In some instances the application of the local standards produces an apparent 'surplus' of provision. However, this should not automatically be interpreted as signifying that the 'surplus' could be disposed of because:
- The standards against which the 'surplus' was assessed are the minimum that are required to meet current local needs. Local concentrations of existing demand and future increases in usage will both inflate the amount of provision needed to levels well above the minimum stipulation.
 - An apparent 'surplus' in one form of provision (for example adult football pitches) will often compensate for shortfalls in other types of provision locally (for example youth football pitches).

XI. ACTION PLAN

Introduction

- 11.1 This section comprises an action plan for meeting the deficiencies identified in this assessment. It contains the following material:
- a) Options for meeting the deficiencies.
 - b) Delivery partners.
 - c) Action plan for meeting existing needs.
 - d) Action plan for meeting future needs.
 - e) A basis for calculating developer contributions.
 - f) Provision for reviews.

Dealing with deficiencies

- 11.2 **Introduction:** A number of options are available for meeting the identified deficiencies in provision, including:
- a) New provision.
 - b) Upgrading and refurbishing.
 - c) Enhanced access.
- 11.3 **New provision:** Providing entirely new pitches and outdoor sports facilities may be the only means of securing additional provision in the right location. This can be achieved by:
- a) Identifying entirely new sites for provision in appropriate locations.
 - b) Extending existing provision where feasible.
 - c) Disposing of existing facilities to reinvest the capital receipt in new provision.
 - d) Incorporating facilities and open space into new community provision and housing developments.
- 11.4 **Upgrading and refurbishing:** Upgrading and refurbishing existing pitches and outdoors sports facilities would meet some of the qualitative deficiencies identified:
- a) The provision of floodlights for some pitches outdoor sports facilities would extend the period in which they can be used.
 - b) Drainage improvements to grass pitches enables them to accommodate more play, with fewer postponed fixtures.

- c) Changing facilities are poor or absent at some pitch sites in the study area and improvements would significantly enhance the experience of users.

11.5 **Secured access:** Securing improved access through the development of formal agreements serves to safeguard community use of school pitches outdoor sports facilities. In some cases, this may provide sufficient security of tenure to allow external funding applications to be sought, to provide further enhancements. Given the relatively high proportion of pitches in Medway that are on school sites, Community Use Agreements with schools would help to ensure that existing use is secured and also provide a means for developing additional external use.

Delivery partners

11.6 **Introduction:** A wide range of organisations will have a role in implementing the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Facilities Study. The type of roles are summarised below.

11.7 **Medway Council:** The council is likely to play the lead role in co-ordinating the development of the larger, more strategic pitch and sports facility sites, in conjunction with other partners where appropriate.

11.8 **Parish councils:** Parish councils will continue to play a valuable role in providing and maintaining pitches and outdoor sports facilities in the rural parts of the study area.

11.9 **Schools:** Many schools in the study area already provide pitches and outdoor sports facilities from which local communities benefit and there will be further opportunities to extend and formalise community access to a range of provision on school sites.

11.10 **Sports organisations:** Local sports clubs are significant providers of pitches and outdoor sports facilities and will continue to do so. Some clubs may be interested in taking on delegated management responsibilities for pitch and changing facilities maintenance from Medway Council.

11.11 **Developers:** The developers of new housing and commercial projects in Medway can be required either to provide new pitches and outdoor sports facilities as part of an individual development, or to make a financial contribution towards the costs of such provision on site or elsewhere in the vicinity. The key principle is that the provision must meet the needs of the residents of the new homes, as opposed to rectifying any pre-existing deficiencies. This mechanism is likely to comprise a major component of most new provision in the study area.

11.12 **Partnership arrangements:** Partnership arrangements involving combinations of any of the above providers will help to share the costs of provision, management and maintenance of additional provision.

Action plan for meeting existing needs

11.13 **Introduction:** The action plan identifies the ways in which current deficiencies might be met and the partners who will have a role in providing, funding and managing new provision. It specifies what needs to be provided and where and proposes how best this might be achieved.

11.14 **Adult football:** The action plan to address current needs is as follows:

Sub-area	Current assessed deficiency	Action plan for meeting deficiency
Chatham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency. • Quality improvements needed for pitches at three sites. • Quality improvements needed to changing at one site. • No accessibility deficiency, but need to secure access to pitches on school sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support pitch owners with external funding applications for pitch improvements at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Barnfield Playing Fields - Bishop of Rochester Academy - Snodhurst Bottom • Support pitch owners with external funding applications for changing improvements at Bishop of Rochester Academy. • Develop Community Use Agreements at all schools where there is existing unsecured community use.
Gillingham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency. • Quality improvements needed for pitches at 3 sites. • Quality improvements needed to changing at 2 sites. • No accessibility deficiency, but need to secure access to pitches on school sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support pitch owners with external funding applications for pitch improvements at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Great Lines Heritage Park - Hempstead Recreation Ground - Kings Frith • Support pitch owners with external funding applications for changing improvements at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Great Lines Heritage Park - Kings Frith • Develop Community Use Agreements at all schools where there is existing unsecured community use.
Rochester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency. • Quality improvements needed for pitches at 3 sites. • Quality improvements needed to changing at 2 sites • No accessibility deficiency, but need to secure access to pitches on school sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support pitch owners with external funding applications for pitch improvements at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Holcombe Hockey and Sports Club - Rochester School for Girls - Wouldham Recreation Ground • Support pitch owners with external funding applications for changing improvements at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Borstal Recreation Ground - Wouldham Recreation Ground • Develop Community Use Agreements at all schools where there is existing unsecured community use.
Rainham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency. • Quality improvements needed for pitches at 3 sites. • Quality improvements needed to changing 3 sites. • No accessibility deficiency, but need to secure access to pitches on school sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality improvements needed for pitches and changing provision at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Beechings Way Recreation Ground - Cozenton Park - Ryetop Playing Fields • Develop Community Use Agreements at all schools where there is existing unsecured community use.
Strood/Rural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency. • Quality improvements needed for pitches at 5 sites. • Quality improvements needed to changing provision at 2 sites • No accessibility deficiency, but need to secure access to pitches on school sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support pitch owners with external funding applications for pitch improvements at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - APCM Recreation Ground - Cuxton Recreation Ground - Deangate Ridge - St. James's Park, Grain - Wainscott Recreation Ground • Support pitch owners with external funding applications for changing improvements at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - St. James's Park, Grain - Wainscott Recreation Ground • Develop Community Use Agreements at all schools where there is existing unsecured community use.

11.15 *Youth football*: The action plan to address current needs is as follows:

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Current assessed deficiency</i>	<i>Action plan for meeting deficiency</i>
Chatham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 additional pitches. • Quality improvements needed for pitches at 2 sites • No substantive accessibility deficiency, but need to secure access to pitches on school sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide 13 additional youth pitches by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Converting underused adult pitches into youth pitches, including provision the new 9v9 format. - Negotiating additional community access to youth pitches on primary school sites. • Quality improvements needed for pitches at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Barnfield Playing Fields - Horstead Junior School • Develop Community Use Agreements at all schools where there is existing unsecured community use.
Gillingham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 additional pitches. • Quality improvements needed for pitches at 2 sites • Quality improvements needed to changing at 2 sites. • No substantive accessibility deficiency, but need to secure access to pitches on school sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide 12 additional youth pitches by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Converting underused adult pitches into youth pitches, including provision the new 9v9 format. - Negotiating additional community access to youth pitches on primary school sites. • Support pitch owners with external funding applications for pitch improvements at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hempstead Recreation Ground - Kings Frith • Support pitch owners with external funding applications for changing improvements at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kings Frith - New Brompton College • Develop Community Use Agreements at all schools where there is existing unsecured community use.
Rochester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 additional pitches. • Quality improvements needed for pitches at one site • Quality improvements needed to changing at 2 sites. • No substantive accessibility deficiency, but need to secure access to pitches on school sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide 5 additional youth pitches by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Converting underused adult pitches into youth pitches, including provision the new 9v9 format. - Negotiating additional community access to youth pitches on primary school sites. • Support pitch owners with external funding applications for pitch improvements at Holcombe Sports Club. • Support pitch owners with external funding applications for changing improvements at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Balfour Recreation Ground - Borstal Recreation Ground • Develop Community Use Agreements at all schools where there is existing unsecured community use.

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Current assessed deficiency</i>	<i>Action plan for meeting deficiency</i>
Rainham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 additional pitches. • Quality improvements needed for pitches at 3 sites. • Quality improvements needed to changing at 1 site. • No substantive accessibility deficiency, but need to secure access to pitches on school sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide 7 additional youth pitches by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Converting underused adult pitches into youth pitches, including provision the new 9v9 format. - Negotiating additional community access to youth pitches on primary school sites. - Support Howard School Playing Field Development Project funding application and delivery to secure additional pitches with community use agreement • Support pitch owners with external funding applications for pitch improvements at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Featherby Junior School - Rainham School for Girls - Ryetop Playing Field • Support pitch owners with external funding applications for changing improvements at Ryetop Playing Field • Develop Community Use Agreements at all schools where there is existing unsecured community use.
Strood/Rural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency. • Quality improvements needed for pitches at 5 sites. • Quality improvements needed to changing provision at 3 sites. • No substantive accessibility deficiency, but need to secure access to pitches on school sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support pitch owners with external funding applications for pitch improvements at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - APCM Recreation Ground - Seaview Meadows, Grain - Sherwin Knight School - Upper Halling Recreation Ground - Wainscott Recreation Ground • Support pitch owners with external funding applications for changing improvements at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seaview Meadows, Grain - Upper Halling Recreation Ground - Wainscott Recreation Ground • Develop Community Use Agreements at all schools where there is existing unsecured community use.

11.16 *Mini-Soccer*: The action plan to address current needs is as follows:

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Current assessed deficiency</i>	<i>Action plan for meeting deficiency</i>
Chatham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 additional pitches. • Quality improvements needed for pitches at 1 site. • No substantive accessibility deficiency, but need to secure access to pitches on school sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide 9 additional mini-soccer pitches by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Converting underused adult pitches into mini-soccer pitches. - Negotiating additional community access to mini-soccer pitches on primary school sites. • Support pitch owners with external funding applications for pitch improvements at Spinnens Acre School • Develop Community Use Agreements at all schools where there is existing unsecured community use.

Gillingham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency. • No pitch or changing quality improvements needed. • No substantive accessibility deficiency, but need to secure access to pitches on school sites. 	Develop Community Use Agreements at all schools where there is existing unsecured community use.
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<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Current assessed deficiency</i>	<i>Action plan for meeting deficiency</i>
Rochester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 additional pitch. • No pitch or changing quality improvements needed. • No substantive accessibility deficiency, but need to secure access to pitches on school sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide 1 additional mini-soccer pitch by either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Converting underused adult pitches into mini-soccer pitches. - Negotiating additional community access to mini-soccer pitches on primary school sites. • Develop Community Use Agreements at all schools where there is existing unsecured community use.
Rainham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 additional pitches. • Quality improvements needed for pitches at 3 sites. • Quality improvements needed to changing art 1 site. • No substantive accessibility deficiency, but need to secure access to pitches on school sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide 3 additional mini-soccer pitches by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Converting underused adult pitches into mini-soccer pitches. - Negotiating additional community access to mini-soccer pitches on primary school sites. • Support pitch owners with external funding applications for pitch improvements at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cozenton Park - Featherby Junior School - St. Thomas of Canterbury School • Support pitch owners with external funding applications for changing improvements at Cozenton Park. • Develop Community Use Agreements at all schools where there is existing unsecured community use.
Strood/Rural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency. • Quality improvements needed for pitches and changing provision 1 site. • No substantive accessibility deficiency, but need to secure access to pitches on school sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support pitch owners with external funding applications for pitch and changing improvements at: Seaview Meadows, Grain. • Develop Community Use Agreements at all schools where there is existing unsecured community use.

11.17 *Cricket*: The action plan to address current needs is as follows:

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Current assessed deficiency</i>	<i>Action plan for meeting deficiency</i>
Chatham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency. • No pitch or changing quality improvements needed. • No substantive accessibility deficiency, but need to secure access to pitches on school sites. 	Develop Community Use Agreements at all schools where there is existing unsecured community use.
Gillingham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency. • No pitch or changing quality improvements needed. • No substantive accessibility deficiency, but need to secure access to pitches on school sites. 	Develop Community Use Agreements at all schools where there is existing unsecured community use.

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Current assessed deficiency</i>	<i>Action plan for meeting deficiency</i>
Rochester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.4 additional pitches. • Quality improvements needed for pitch at 1 site. • Quality improvements needed to changing at 2 sites. • No substantive accessibility deficiency, but need to secure access to pitches on school sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide additional cricket pitches by negotiating community access to cricket pitches on sites with no secured access at present. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sir Joseph Williamsons School (x2). - Thomas Aveling School • Support pitch owners with external funding applications for pitch improvements at Holcombe Sports Club. • Support pitch owners with external funding applications for changing improvements at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brambletrees - Kings School Rochester (Alps)
Rainham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.5 additional pitches. • Quality improvements needed to changing at 1 site. • No substantive accessibility deficiency, but need to secure access to pitches on school sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide additional cricket pitch by negotiating community access to cricket pitches at Rainham Mark Grammar School. • Support pitch owners with external funding applications for changing improvements at Rainham Cricket Club.
Strood/Rural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.5 additional pitches. • No pitch or changing quality improvements needed. • No substantive accessibility deficiency, but need to secure access to pitches on school sites. 	Provide additional cricket pitch by negotiating community access to cricket pitch at the Village CSC.

11.18 **Rugby:** The action plan to address current needs is as follows:

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Current assessed deficiency</i>	<i>Action plan for meeting deficiency</i>
Chatham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency. • No pitch or changing quality improvements needed. • No substantive accessibility deficiency, but need to secure access to pitches on school sites. 	Develop Community Use Agreements at all schools where there is existing unsecured community use.
Gillingham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shortfall of 0.5 pitches. • No pitch or changing quality improvements needed. • No substantive accessibility deficiency, but need to secure access to pitches on school sites. 	Provide additional rugby pitch by negotiating community access to cricket pitches on sites with no secured access at present.

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Current assessed deficiency</i>	<i>Action plan for meeting deficiency</i>
Rochester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency, but Medway RFC needs one additional pitch at Priestfield Recreation Ground at peak periods. • Quality improvements needed for pitches at 2 sites. • Quality improvements needed to changing at 1 site. • No substantive accessibility deficiency, but need to secure access to pitches on school sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convert one adult football pitch into a rugby pitch at Priestfield Recreation Ground. • Support pitch owners with external funding applications for pitch improvements at : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bishop of Rochester Academy - Holcombe Hockey and Sports Club • Support pitch owners with external funding applications for changing improvements at Bishop of Rochester Academy. • Develop Community Use Agreements at all schools where there is existing unsecured community use.
Rainham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency. • No pitch or changing quality improvements needed. • No substantive accessibility deficiency. 	No action required.
Strood/Rural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency. • No pitch or changing quality improvements needed. • No substantive accessibility deficiency. 	No action required.

11.19 *Synthetic turf pitches:* The action plan to address current needs is as follows:

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Current assessed deficiency</i>	<i>Action plan for meeting deficiency</i>
Chatham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency. • No pitch or changing quality improvements needed. • No substantive accessibility deficiency. 	No action required.
Gillingham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency. • No pitch or changing quality improvements needed. • No substantive accessibility deficiency. 	No action required.
Rochester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency. • No qualitative deficiency, although pitches at Sir Joseph Williamson School and Holcombe Sports Club will shortly require resurfacing in • No accessibility deficiency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support pitch owners with funding applications for '3G' pitch surfacing at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sir Joseph Williamson School. - Holcombe Sports Club • Develop Community Use Agreements at all sites where there is existing unsecured community use.
Rainham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency. • No pitch or changing quality improvements needed. • No substantive accessibility deficiency. 	No action required.
Strood/Rural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency. • No pitch or changing quality improvements needed. • No substantive accessibility deficiency. 	No action required.

11.20 **Athletics tracks:** The action plan to address current needs is as follows:

<i>Area</i>	<i>Current assessed deficiency</i>	<i>Action plan for meeting deficiency</i>
Medway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency. • No qualitative deficiency. • No accessibility deficiency. 	Continue to maintain both tracks to at least an 'average' quality standard.

11.21 **Bowling greens:** The action plan to address current needs is as follows:

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Current assessed deficiency</i>	<i>Action plan for meeting deficiency</i>
Chatham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency • Quality improvements needed for disabled and/or general access at one site. • No accessibility deficiency. 	Support club with external funding applications for disabled and general access improvement programmes at Chatham Bowls Club.
Gillingham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency. • Quality improvements needed for disabled and/or general access at 2 sites. • No accessibility deficiency. 	Support clubs with external funding applications for disabled and general access improvement programmes at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Palm Cottage Bowls Club • Sturdee Gillingham Bowls Club
Rochester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency. • Quality improvements needed for disabled and/or general access at 2 sites. • No accessibility deficiency. 	Support clubs with external funding applications for disabled and general access improvement programmes at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Borstal Bowls Club • Jackson's Recreation Ground
Rainham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency. • Quality improvements needed for disabled and/or general access at 1 site. • No accessibility deficiency. 	Support clubs with external funding applications for disabled and general access improvement programmes at Civil Service (Chatham) Bowls Club.
Strood/Rural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency. • No pitch or changing quality improvements needed. • No substantive accessibility deficiency. 	No action required.

11.22 **Tennis courts:** The action plan to address current needs is as follows:

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Current assessed deficiency</i>	<i>Action plan for meeting deficiency</i>
Chatham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shortfall of 8 tennis courts. • Quality improvements needed for disabled and general access at 2 sites. • No accessibility deficiency, but need to secure access to courts on school sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the provision of 8 additional tennis courts. • Support court owners with external funding applications for disabled and general access improvement programmes at : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Greenacre School. - Walderslade School for Girls. • Develop Community Use Agreements at all schools where there is existing unsecured community use.

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Current assessed deficiency</i>	<i>Action plan for meeting deficiency</i>
Gillingham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shortfall of 10 tennis courts. • Quality improvements needed for disabled and general access at 1 site. • No accessibility deficiency, but need to secure access to courts on school sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the provision of 10 additional tennis courts. • Support court owners with external funding applications for disabled and general access improvement programmes at Avenue LTC. • Develop Community Use Agreements at all schools where there is existing unsecured community use.
Rochester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency. • Quality improvements needed for disabled and general access at 1 site. • No accessibility deficiency, but need to secure access to courts on school sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support court owners with external funding applications for disabled and general access improvement programmes at City Tennis Club. • Develop Community Use Agreements at all schools where there is existing unsecured community use.
Rainham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shortfall of 5 tennis courts. • Quality improvements needed for disabled and/or general access at 1 site. • No accessibility deficiency, but need to secure access to courts on school sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the provision of 5 additional tennis courts. • Support court owners with external funding applications for disabled and general access improvement programmes at Wigmore Park. • Develop Community Use Agreements at all schools where there is existing unsecured community use.
Strood/Rural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shortfall of 4 tennis courts. • Quality improvements needed for disabled and/or general access at 1 site. • No accessibility deficiency, but need to secure access to courts on school sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the provision of 4 additional tennis courts. • Support court owners with external funding applications for disabled and general access improvement programmes at APCM Recreation Ground. • Develop Community Use Agreements at all schools where there is existing unsecured community use.

11.23 *Athletics tracks*: The action plan to address current needs is as follows:

<i>Area</i>	<i>Current assessed deficiency</i>	<i>Action plan for meeting deficiency</i>
Medway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shortfall of 2.5 x 18 hole golf course units. • Qualitative improvements needs at Allhallows Golf Course. • No accessibility deficiency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the provision of 2.5 x 18 hole golf course units by commercial providers. • Support Allhallows Golf Course with external funding applications to improve provision.

11.24 *MUGAs*: The action plan to address current needs is as follows:

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Current assessed deficiency</i>	<i>Action plan for meeting deficiency</i>
Chatham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency. • No quality improvements needed. • No accessibility deficiency. 	No action required.
Gillingham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shortfall of 4 MUGAs. • No quality improvements needed. • Accessibility deficiencies in the south of the sub-area. 	Encourage the provision of 4 additional MUGAs courts in the south of the sub-area.

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Current assessed deficiency</i>	<i>Action plan for meeting deficiency</i>
Rochester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shortfall of 1 MUGA. • Quality improvements needed for disabled and general access at 1 site. • Accessibility deficiencies in the south and west of the sub-area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the provision of 1 additional MUGA in the south or west of the sub-area. • Implement disabled and general access improvements at Copperfield Park MUGA.
Rainham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shortfall of 3 MUGAs. • Accessibility throughout the sub-area. 	Encourage the provision of 3 additional MUGAs.
Strood/Rural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency. • No quality improvements needed. • No accessibility deficiency. 	No action required.

Action plan for meeting future needs

11.25 **Introduction:** The action plan identifies the ways in which future deficiencies might be met and the partners who will have a role in providing, funding and managing new provision. It specifies what needs to be provided and where and proposes how best this might be achieved.

11.26 **Adult football:** The action plan to address future needs is as follows:

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Future assessed deficiency</i>	<i>Action plan for meeting deficiency</i>
Chatham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.0 additional pitch (accommodated by current notional surplus). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes walk or drive of new developments. 	No action required.
Gillingham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.9 additional pitches (accommodated by current notional surplus). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes walk or drive of new developments. 	No action required.
Rochester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.5 additional pitches (accommodated by current notional surplus). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes walk or drive of new developments. 	No action required.
Rainham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.5 additional pitches (accommodated by current notional surplus). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes walk or drive of new developments. 	No action required.
Strood/Rural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.9 additional pitches (accommodated by current notional surplus). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes walk or drive of new developments. 	No action required.

11.27 **Youth football:** The action plan to address future needs is as follows:

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Future assessed deficiency</i>	<i>Action plan for meeting deficiency</i>
Chatham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.2 additional pitches once the existing deficiency has been met. • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes walk or drive of new developments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure the provision of 2 additional youth pitches funded by developer contributions. • Conversion of pitches to new dimensions as per the Youth Development Review.
Gillingham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.1 additional pitches once the existing deficiency has been met. • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes walk or drive of new developments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure the provision of 1 additional youth pitch funded by developer contributions. • Conversion of pitches to new dimensions as per the Youth Development Review.
Rochester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.6 additional pitches once the existing deficiency has been met. • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes walk or drive of new developments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure the provision of 1 additional youth pitch funded by developer contributions. • Conversion of pitches to new dimensions as per the Youth Development Review.
Rainham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.6 additional pitches once the existing deficiency has been met. • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes walk or drive of new developments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure the provision of 1 additional youth pitch funded by developer contributions. • Conversion of pitches to new dimensions as per the Youth Development Review.
Strood/Rural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.1 additional pitches (accommodated by current notional surplus). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes walk or drive of new developments. 	Conversion of pitches to new dimensions as per the Youth Development Review.

11.28 **Mini-soccer:** The action plan to address future needs is as follows:

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Future assessed deficiency</i>	<i>Action plan for meeting deficiency</i>
Chatham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.5 additional pitches. • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes walk or drive of new developments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure the provision of 1 additional youth pitch funded by developer contributions. • Conversion of pitches to new dimensions as per the Youth Development Review.
Gillingham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.5 additional pitches. • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes walk or drive of new developments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure the provision of 1 additional youth pitch funded by developer contributions. • Conversion of pitches to new dimensions as per the Youth Development Review.
Rochester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.25 additional pitches (met by extra pitch to meet current needs). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes walk or drive of new developments. 	No action required.
Rainham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.25 additional pitches (met by extra pitches to meet current needs). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes walk or drive of new developments. 	No action required.
Strood/Rural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.5 additional pitches (met by current notional surplus). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes walk or drive of new developments. 	No action required.

11.29 **Cricket:** The action plan to address future needs is as follows:

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Future assessed deficiency</i>	<i>Action plan for meeting deficiency</i>
Chatham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No additional requirements (extra demand met by current notional surplus). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes walk or drive of new developments. 	No action required.
Gillingham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No additional requirements (extra demand met by current notional surplus). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes walk or drive of new developments. 	No action required.
Rochester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.2 additional pitches (met by extra pitches to meet current needs). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes walk or drive of new developments. 	No action required.
Rainham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.2 additional pitches (met by extra pitches to meet current needs). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes walk or drive of new developments. 	No action required.
Strood/Rural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.3 additional pitches (met by extra pitches to meet current needs). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes walk or drive of new developments. 	No action required.

11.30 **Rugby:** The action plan to address future needs is as follows:

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Future assessed deficiency</i>	<i>Action plan for meeting deficiency</i>
Chatham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.2 additional pitches (accommodated by current notional surplus). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 20 minutes walk or drive of new developments. 	No action required.
Gillingham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.2 additional pitches (accommodated by extra pitch to meet current needs). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 20 minutes walk or drive of new developments. 	No action required.
Rochester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.1 additional pitches (accommodated by current notional surplus). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 20 minutes walk or drive of new developments. 	No action required.
Rainham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No additional requirements. 	No action required.
Strood/Rural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.2 additional pitches (accommodated by current notional surplus). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 20 minutes walk or drive of new developments. 	No action required.

11.31 *Synthetic turf pitches:* The action plan to address future needs is as follows:

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Future assessed deficiency</i>	<i>Action plan for meeting deficiency</i>
Chatham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.5 additional pitches (0.6ha). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 20 minutes walk or drive of new developments. 	Secure the provision of a small-sided '3G' synthetic turf pitch funded by developer contributions.
Gillingham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No additional pitches (additional demand accommodated by existing pitches). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 20 minutes walk or drive of new developments. 	No action required.
Rochester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No additional pitches (additional demand accommodated by existing pitches). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 20 minutes walk or drive of new developments. 	No action required.
Rainham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No additional pitches (additional demand accommodated by existing pitches). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 20 minutes walk or drive of new developments. 	No action required.
Strood/Rural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No additional pitches (additional demand accommodated by existing pitch). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 20 minutes walk or drive of new developments. 	No action required.

11.32 *Athletics tracks:* The action plan to address future needs is as follows:

<i>Area</i>	<i>Future assessed deficiency</i>	<i>Action plan for meeting deficiency</i>
Medway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency (extra demand can be met by the existing tracks). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 20 minutes walk or drive of new developments. 	No action required.

11.33 *Bowling greens:* The action plan to address future needs is as follows:

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Future assessed deficiency</i>	<i>Action plan for meeting deficiency</i>
Chatham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 additional bowling green (1.0ha). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes walk or drive of new developments. 	Secure the provision of an additional bowling green funded by developer contributions.
Gillingham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No additional greens (additional demand accommodated by existing greens). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes walk or drive of new developments. 	No action required.
Rochester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No additional greens (additional demand accommodated by existing greens). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes walk or drive of new developments. 	No action required.

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Future assessed deficiency</i>	<i>Action plan for meeting deficiency</i>
Rainham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No additional greens (additional demand accommodated by existing greens). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes walk or drive of new developments. 	No action required.
Strood/Rural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No additional greens (additional demand accommodated by existing greens). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes walk or drive of new developments. 	No action required.

11.34 **Tennis courts:** The action plan to address future needs is as follows:

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Future assessed deficiency</i>	<i>Action plan for meeting deficiency</i>
Chatham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.4 additional tennis courts once existing deficiencies have been met. • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes walk or drive of new developments. 	Secure the provision of 2 tennis courts funded by developer contributions.
Gillingham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.3 additional tennis courts once existing deficiencies have been met. • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes walk or drive of new developments. 	Secure the provision of 1 tennis court funded by developer contributions.
Rochester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No additional courts (additional demand accommodated by existing courts). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes walk or drive of new developments. 	No action required.
Rainham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.7 additional tennis courts once existing deficiencies have been met. • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes walk or drive of new developments. 	Secure the provision of 1 tennis court funded by developer contributions.
Strood/Rural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.2 additional tennis courts once existing deficiencies have been met. • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes walk or drive of new developments. 	Secure the provision of 1 tennis courts funded by developer contributions.

11.35 **Golf courses:** The action plan to address future needs is as follows:

<i>Area</i>	<i>Future assessed deficiency</i>	<i>Action plan for meeting deficiency</i>
Medway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.3 additional 18 hole golf course units (9 holes), once existing deficiencies have been met. • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 20 minutes walk or drive of new developments. 	Secure the provision of one nine-hole golf course funded by developer contributions.

11.36 **MUGAs:** The action plan to address future needs is as follows:

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Future assessed deficiency</i>	<i>Action plan for meeting deficiency</i>
Chatham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.4 additional MUGAs (0.1ha). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 10 minutes walk of new developments. 	No action required.
Gillingham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 additional MUGA (0.1ha) once existing deficiencies have been met. • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 10 minutes walk of new developments. 	Secure the provision of 1 MUGA funded by developer contributions.
Rochester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.5 additional MUGAs (0.1ha) once existing deficiencies have been met. • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 10 minutes walk of new developments. 	No action required.
Rainham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.6 additional MUGAs (0.1ha) once existing deficiencies have been met. • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 10 minutes walk of new developments. 	Secure the provision of 1 MUGA funded by developer contributions.
Strood/Rural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No additional MUGAs (additional demand met by existing MUGAs) • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 10 minutes walk of new developments. 	No action required.

A basis for calculating developer contributions

11.37 Developer contributions involve the provision of funding by housing developers, as a contribution to the facilities and services that the inhabitants of new residential development will need. The production of Development Plan Documents (DPDs) under Local Development Frameworks provides local authorities with a basis for formalising such arrangements. This section sets out worked example of the basis on which developer contributions can be calculated for pitch and outdoor sports facilities provision in Medway.

11.38 **Principles:** The basis on which developer contributions for pitch and outdoor sports facilities provision should be developed should involve the following principles:

- a) Policies and planning standards should be comprehensive, but also flexible and simple to understand. Guidance should be clear and unambiguous, to provide practical solutions to meet all circumstances.
- b) There should be clarity about the costs that developers are required to meet.
- c) The basis on which on-site and off-site contributions will be determined should be clear, with thresholds reflecting the planning standards for pitches.

11.39 **Process:** Sport England advocates a six-stage process for calculating developer contributions. Based on this approach and the combination of known and projected figures, the following is a worked example of the developer contributions that might be attracted for sports provision and open space in Medway:

- a) **Identify the timeframe for the DPD:** The LDF will cover the period to 2028.
- b) **Establish the number of dwellings to be committed:** The draft 'Medway Core Strategy' (2012) projects an increase of 17,930 new dwellings in Medway in the period 2006 to 2028 (an average of 818 per annum). This implies a total of around 12,000 for the period between 2012 and 2028, to accommodate a population increase of 16,100.
- c) **Agree what type of dwellings should contribute to sports facilities:** In line with local planning policy, all types of residential development will be required to contribute towards playing pitch and outdoor sports facility provision.
- d) **Calculate the number and mix of dwellings of each type likely to be provided within the DPD timeframe:** The following is a worked example of the possible mix of dwelling sizes, numbers of properties and numbers of residents.

<i>Dwelling size</i>	<i>No. properties</i>	<i>No. residents</i>
1 bedroom	9,650	9,650
2 bedrooms	1,200	2,600
3 bedrooms	750	2,250
4+ bedrooms	400	1,600
TOTAL	12,000	16,100

- e) **Establish the relevant costs of provision:** This involves calculating the costs of provision of each facility and typology. For the purposes of this calculation, it has been assumed that all additional facilities will be provided as new, although in practice the options for provision include several lower cost possibilities.
- **Average sports facility costs:** The table below lists the cost of each type of sports facility, based upon Sport England's published cost estimates for the second quarter of 2012.

<i>Type of facility</i>	<i>Land purchase</i>	<i>Site preparation</i>	<i>Design fees</i>	<i>Planning fees</i>	<i>Building costs</i>	<i>Equipment</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Ad. football pitches	£5,000	£5,000	-	£1,000	£62,000	£2,000	£75,000
Jun. football pitches	£5,000	£5,000	-	£1,000	£52,000	£2,000	£65,000
Mini-soccer pitches	£3,000	£3,000	-	£1,000	£16,000	£2,000	£25,000
Cricket pitches	£10,000	£8,000	-	£1,000	£179,000	£2,000	£200,000
Rugby pitches	£5,000	£5,000	-	£1,000	£107,000	£2,000	£120,000
Synthetic turf pitches	£5,000	£10,000	£5,000	£5,000	£765,000	£10,000	£800,000
Athletics tracks	£100,000	£200,000	£50,000	£50,000	£640,000	£50,000	£1,090,000
Bowling greens	£50,000	£20,000	£10,000	£2,000	£27,000	£1,000	£110,000
Tennis courts	£20,000	£5,000	£5,000	£1,000	£50,500	£1,000	£82,500
Golf courses	£1 million	£500,000	£250,000	£50,000	£1.5 million	£50,000	£3,350,000
MUGAs	£20,000	£5,000	£5,000	£1,000	£80,500	£3,500	£115,000

- **Inflation:** Inflation will be taken into account via the application of an appropriate indexation to finalise costs, dependent on price changes in forthcoming years.
- **Extra provision needed:** Identified pitch needs, based upon anticipated population increases of 16,100 people by 2028 relating to new housing developments and excluding any existing deficiencies, are shown below.

- **Attributable cost of sports facilities:** The table below lists each type of sports facility, its unit cost, the number of extra facilities required in Medway and total cost of that provision.

<i>Facility type</i>	<i>Unit cost</i>	<i>No. extra facilities</i>	<i>Total costs (£)</i>
Ad. football pitches	£75,000	0	0
Jun. football pitches	£65,000	5	£325,000
Mini-soccer pitches	£25,000	2	£50,000
Cricket pitches	£200,000	1	£200,000
Rugby pitches	£120,000	1	0
Synthetic turf pitches	£800,000	0.5	£400,000
Athletics tracks	£1,090,000	0	0
Bowling greens	£110,000	1	£110,000
Tennis courts	£82,500	5	£427,500
Golf courses	£3,350,000	0.5	£1,675,000
MUGAs	£115,000	3	£345,000
TOTAL	-	-	£3,532,500

- f) **Divide costs into dwellings:** This involves dividing the costs by the relevant number and type of dwellings, to arrive at an appropriate contribution. The table below lists suggested developer contributions for each type of housing by number of bedrooms, the percentage of residences likely to be built of each type, the total apportioned costs for each type of dwelling, the number of dwellings of each type likely to be built and the apportioned costs per dwelling.

<i>Type of housing</i>	<i>% residents</i>	<i>Apportioned costs</i>	<i>No. dwellings</i>	<i>Cost per dwelling</i>
1 bedroom	59.9%	£2,115,967.50	9,650	£219.27
2 bedrooms	16.1%	£568,732.50	1,200	£473.94
3 bedrooms	14.1%	£498,082.50	750	£664.11
4+ bedrooms	9.9%	£349,717.50	400	£874.29

11.40 **On-site/off-site provision:** Because of the number of people required to sustain each type of pitch and outdoor sports facility (ranging from 3,000 people for a tennis court to 250,000 people for an athletics track), it is not anticipated that any single development will be large enough for on-site provision to be made by the developer. It has therefore been assumed that developer contributions will be sought, based upon the above calculations, to fund off-site facility provision.

11.41 **Summary:** Developer contributions are likely to provide the majority of funding for the additional pitches and outdoor sports facilities needed to serve development-related population increases in Medway and the calculations set out above provide a robust and defensible basis upon which to invite such contributions.

Provision for reviews

11.42 Because sport and physical activity is a rapidly changing environment, to ensure that the proposals in the study continue to address local needs and strategic priorities, the situation will be reviewed regularly. Assumptions about population growth will be tested regularly and projected requirements refined accordingly. There will therefore be annual reviews of progress towards action plan targets and a three-yearly review of the overall strategic approach.

APPENDIX: PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES SITES

CHATHAM SUB-AREA

1) *Bowling greens:*

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>
Chatham Bowls Club	Palmerston Road, Chatham ME4 5SJ

2) *Tennis courts:*

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Courts</i>
Chatham Grammar School for Girls	Rainham Road, Chatham ME5 7EH	2 Tarmac
Greenacre School	Walderslade Road, Chatham ME5 0LP	3 Tarmac
Medway Sports Centre	Central Avenue, Chatham ME4 4TB	2 Tarmac
Maidstone Road Sports Ground	Maidstone Road, Chatham ME4 6BZ	4 Tarmac
Walderslade School for Girls	Bradfields Avenue, Chatham ME5 0LE	4 Tarmac

3) *Playing pitches:*

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Pitches</i>
Barnfield Playing Fields	Barnfields, Chatham ME5 0HT	3 adult football 1 youth football
Bishop of Rochester Academy	Magpie Hall Road, Chatham ME4 5JB	2 adult football 1 rugby
Chatham Grammar School for Girls	Rainham Road, Chatham ME5 7EH	1 adult football
Greenacre School	Walderslade Road, Chatham ME5 0LP	4 adult football 3 youth football 1 rugby 1 synthetic turf
Hook Meadow	King George Road, Chatham ME5 0TZ	1 adult football 1 youth football
Horstead Junior School	Vale Drive, Chatham ME5 9XB	1 youth football
Lordswood Sports & Social Club	North Dane Way, Chatham ME5 8YE	2 adult football 1 youth football 2 mini-soccer 2 cricket 2 rugby
Luton Recreation Ground	Capstone Road, Chatham ME5 7NH	4 adult football 1 youth football 1 cricket
Maidstone Road Sports Ground	Maidstone Road, Chatham ME4 6BZ	1 adult football
Snodhurst Bottom	Walderslade Road, Chatham ME5 0LU	4 adult football
Spinnens Acre School	Sultan Road, Chatham ME5 8TJ	2 mini-soccer

4) *MUGAs:*

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>
Barnfield MUGA	Barnfield, Chatham ME5 0HT
Chalkpit Hill MUGA	Chalkpit Hill, Chatham ME4 5SU
Hook Meadow MUGA	King George Road, Chatham ME5 0TZ
Kestrel Road MUGA	Kestrel Road, Lordswood, Chatham ME5 8TQ
Maidstone MUGA	Maidstone Road, Chatham ME4 6BZ
Princes Park MUGA	Princes Avenue, Chatham ME5 7RD
Teal Drive MUGA	Teal Drive, St. Mary's Island, Chatham ME4 3HA

GILLINGHAM SUB-AREA

1) *Synthetic athletics tracks:*

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>No. lanes</i>
Medway Park	Black Lion Leisure Centre, Mill Road, Gillingham ME7 1HF	8

2) *Bowling greens:*

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>
Palm Cottage Bowls Club	189, Canterbury Street, Gillingham ME7 5TU
Sturdee Gillingham Bowls Club	Sturdee Avenue S & B Club, Sturdee Avenue, Gillingham ME7 4HN

3) *Tennis courts:*

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Courts</i>
Avenue Tennis Club	Glebe Rd, Gillingham ME7 2HU	3 Grass
Robert Napier School	Third Avenue, Gillingham ME7 2LX	3 Tarmac
Strand Leisure Pool and Park	Strand Approach Road, Gillingham ME7 1TT	5 Tarmac

4) *Golf courses:*

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>No. holes</i>
Gillingham Golf Club	Woodlands Road, Gillingham ME7 2AP	18

5) *Playing pitches:*

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Pitches</i>
Anchorians Hockey Club	Darland Avenue, Gillingham ME7 3AN	1 synthetic turf
Beeching's Cross	Grange Road, Gillingham ME7 2UD	4 adult football
Garrison Stadium	Sally Port Gardens, Gillingham ME7 5QT	1 synthetic turf 2 adult football 1 rugby
Great Lines Heritage Park	Marlborough Road, Gillingham ME7 5HD	4 adult football
Hempstead Recreation Ground	Hempstead Road, Hempstead, Gillingham ME7 3RH	2 adult football 1 youth football
Kings Frith	Wigmore Road, Gillingham ME7 3PX	6 adult football 6 youth football
Medway Park	Mill Road, Gillingham ME7 1HF	2 adult football
New Brompton College	Marlborough Road, Gillingham ME7 5HT	4 adult football 1 youth football 1 mini-soccer
Robert Napier School	Third Avenue, Gillingham ME7 2LX	2 adult football 3 mini-soccer 1 cricket
Royal Engineers Sports Ground	Kings Bastion, Gillingham ME7 5DQ	1 adult football 1 cricket 1 rugby
Star Meadow Sports Club	Darland Avenue, Gillingham ME7 3AP	1 adult football 1 youth STP
Watling Street Recreation Ground	Watling Street, Gillingham ME7 2YW	2 adult football 1 youth football 3 rugby
Woodlands Primary School	Woodlands Road, Gillingham ME7 2DU	1 youth STP 1 mini-soccer

5) **MUGAs:**

Site	Address
Castlemaine Avenue MUGA	Castlemaine Avenue, Gillingham ME7 2QE

ROCHESTER SUB-AREA

1) **Bowling greens:**

Site	Address
Borstal Bowls Club	Brambletrees, Wouldham Road, Borstal ME1 3TL
Jackson's Recreation Ground	New Road, Rochester ME1 1DX
Rochester Clarence Bowls Club	Borstal Road (near Fort Clarence), Rochester ME1 3BB

2) **Tennis courts:**

Site	Address	Courts
City Tennis Club	Cornwall Road, Rochester ME1 3DR	3 Grass
Jackson's Recreation Ground	New Road, Rochester ME1 1DX	4 Tarmac
Thomas Aveling School	Arethusa Road, Rochester ME1 2UW	3 Tarmac
Stirling Centre	601, Maidstone Road, Rochester ME1 3QJ	8 Tarmac

3) **Playing pitches:**

Site	Address	Pitches
Balfour Recreation Ground	Balfour Road, Rochester ME1 2QT	1 youth football
Borstal Recreation Ground	Manor Lane, Rochester ME1 3HR	3 adult football 3 youth football
Brambletrees	Wouldham Road, Rochester ME1 3TJ	1 mini-soccer 1 cricket
Holcombe Hockey & Sports Club	Marconi Way, off City Way, Rochester ME1 2TQ	2 synthetic turf 1 adult football 1 youth football 1 cricket 1 rugby
Kings School, Rochester (Alps)	The Alps, Borstal Road, Rochester ME1 3BD	1 cricket 3 rugby
Kings School, Rochester (Paddocks)	The Paddocks, ME1 1TE	1 cricket
Priestfield Recreation Ground	Priestfield, Rochester ME1 3AD	2 adult football 4 rugby
Rochester Grammar School for Girls	Maidstone Road, Rochester ME1 3BY	1 adult football
Sherwood Cricket Club	Cloudesley Close, Rochester ME1 3TF	1 cricket
Shorts Way Sports Ground	Shorts Way, Borstal ME1 3AT	2 adult football
Sir Joseph Williamson's School	Maidstone Road, Rochester ME1 3EL	1 synthetic turf 1 adult football 2 cricket 4 rugby
Thomas Aveling School	Arethusa Road, Rochester ME1 2UW	1 synthetic turf 2 adult football 1 mini-soccer 1 cricket
Wouldham Recreation Ground	High Street, Wouldham ME1 3XA	1 adult football

4) **MUGAs:**

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>
Copperfield Park MUGA	Copperfield Road, Rochester ME1 2JB
Wouldham Recreation Ground MUGA	High Street, Wouldham ME1 3XA

RAINHAM SUB-AREA

1) **Bowls greens:**

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>
Civil Service (Chatham) Bowls Club	Watling Street, Off Will Adams Way, Gillingham ME8 6BY

2) **Tennis courts:**

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Courts</i>
Rainham Mark Grammar School	Pump Lane, Rainham ME8 7AJ	5 Tarmac
Wigmore Park	Wigmore Road, Wigmore, Gillingham ME8 0TH	2 Tarmac

3) **Playing pitches:**

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Pitches</i>
Beeching's Way Recreation Ground	Beechings Way, Gillingham ME8 6RX	2 adult football
Berengrave Park	Berengrave Lane, Rainham ME8 7NA	1 cricket
Cozenton Park	Bloors Lane, Rainham ME8 7LY	1 adult football 1 mini-soccer
Featherby Junior School	Chilham Road, Gillingham ME8 6BT	1 youth football 1 mini-soccer
4-4-2 Sports and Social Club	Featherby Road, Gillingham ME8 6AN	1 adult football
Howard School	Derwent Way, Rainham ME8 0BX	1 adult football 1 youth football
Rainham Mark Grammar School	Pump Lane, Rainham ME8 7AJ	3 adult football 1 youth football 1 cricket
Rainham Recreation Ground	Station Road Rainham ME8 7PR	2 adult football
Rainham School for Girls	Derwent Way, Rainham ME8 0BX	1 youth football
Ryetop Playing Fields	Beacon Close, Gillingham ME8 9AP	1 adult football 1 youth football
St. Thomas of Canterbury School	Romany Road Gillingham, Kent ME8 6JH	2 mini-soccer
Twydall Primary School	Twydall Lane Gillingham ME8 6JS	2 youth football

STROOD AND RURAL SUB-AREA

1) **Synthetic athletics tracks:**

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>No. lanes</i>
Deangate Ridge	Dux Court Road, Hoo, Rochester ME3 8RZ	6

2) **Bowling greens:**

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>
Cliffe Bowls Club	APCM Recreation Ground, Church Street, Cliffe ME3 7PJ
GEC Avionics Bowls Section	Bells Lane, Hoo, near Rochester ME3 9JD
Darnley Road Bowling Green	Darnley Road, Strood ME2 2EU

3) **Tennis courts:**

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Courts</i>
Deangate Ridge	Dux Court Road, Hoo, Rochester ME3 8RZ	3 Tarmac
APCM Recreation Ground	Church Street, Cliffe ME3 7PJ	2 Grass
Frindsbury Tennis Club	Frogs Island, Upnor, Rochester ME2 4UX	6 Tarmac 3 Grass
Darnley Road Tennis Courts	Darnley Road, Strood ME2 2EU	2 Tarmac

4) **Golf courses:**

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>No. holes</i>
Deangate Ridge	Dux Court Road, Hoo, Rochester ME3 8RZ	18
Allhallows Golf Course	Avery Way, Allhallows, Rochester ME3 9QJ	9

5) **MUGAs:**

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>
Bush Road MUGA	Bush Road, Cuxton ME2 1EZ
Church Street MUGA	Church Street, Cliffe ME3 7PJ
High Street MUGA	High Street, Grain ME3 0BL
Ferry Meadow MUGA	Howlsmere Close, Halling, Rochester ME2 1ER
Pottery Road MUGA	Pottery Road, Hoo ME3 9BS
St. James's Park MUGA	Isle of Grain ME3 0BU
Vicarage Road MUGA	Vicarage Road, Halling ME2 1BE

5) **Playing pitches:**

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Pitches</i>
APCM Recreation Ground	Church Street, Cliffe ME3 7PJ	1 adult football 1 youth football
Cliffe Woods Primary School	View Road, Cliffe Woods ME3 8UJ	1 adult football 1 youth football 2 mini-soccer
Cliffe Woods Recreation Ground	Wentworth Drive, Cliffe Woods ME3 8UL	2 adult football 2 youth football
Cuxton Recreation Ground	Bush Road, Cuxton ME2 1LJ	1 adult football
Deangate Ridge	Dux Court Road, Hoo, Rochester ME3 8RZ	3 adult football
Elaine Primary School	Elaine Avenue, Strood ME2 2YN	1 youth football 3 mini-soccer
Ferry Meadow	Howlsmere Close, Halling, Rochester ME2 1ER	1 adult football
Frindsbury Cricket Club	Frog's Island, Upnor Road, Rochester ME2 4UX	1 cricket
Higham & Mockbeggar Cricket Club	Ham River Hill, Cliffe Woods ME3 8EX	1 cricket
Hilltop Primary School	Hilltop Road, Rochester ME2 4QN	1 youth football

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Pitches</i>
Hoo Village Institute	Main Road, Hoo ME3 9AA	1 adult football 2 youth football 1 mini-soccer
Hundred of Hoo School	Main Road, Hoo ME3 9HH	1 synthetic turf 4 adult football 2 youth football 2 rugby
Knight's Place	Stangate Road, Rochester ME2 2TY	4 adult football 1 cricket
Rayners Meadow	Christmas Lane, High Halstow ME3 8SN	1 cricket
Seaview Meadows	Port Victoria Road, Isle of Grain ME3 0EN	1 youth football 1 mini-soccer
Sherwin Knight School	Cedar Road, Strood ME2 2QR	1 youth football
St. James's Park	Isle of Grain ME3 0BU	1 adult football
The Village Community Sports & Social Club	Bells Lane, Hoo ME3 9JD	2 adult football 1 youth football 1 mini-soccer 1 cricket
Upper Halling Recreation Ground	Browndens Road, Upper Halling ME2 1JH	1 youth football
Wainscott Primary School	Wainscott Road, Wainscott ME2 4JY	1 youth football 1 mini-soccer
Wainscott Recreation Ground	Holly Road, Wainscott ME2 4LG	1 adult football 1 youth football
Winget Sports Ground	Watling Street Rochester ME2 3UA	1 youth football