

London Borough of Southwark Playing Pitch Strategy

A Report by pmpgenesis



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1. Introduction

- 01**
- 1.1 pmpgenesis was commissioned in March 2009 to develop a Playing Pitch Strategy for the London Borough of Southwark (LBS).
- 1.2 This Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) has been developed alongside a PPG17 Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study and is also designed to complement the recently published Sport and Physical Activity Strategy.
- 1.3 The PPS has been developed following the methodology outlined by Sport England in *'Towards a Level Playing Field – A Manual for the Production of Playing Pitch Strategies'*.
- 1.4 The key objectives of this Playing Pitch Strategy are to:
- Analyse the current level of pitch provision, including the geographical spread and quality of pitches;
 - Identify the demand for pitches in Southwark;
 - Evaluate levels of over / under supply through the application of the Playing Pitch Methodology (PPM - explained in detail later);
 - Identify how facilities for pitch sports can be improved to meet the needs of residents;
 - Provide strategic options including
 - provision to be protected
 - provision to be enhanced
 - relocation of pitches
 - proposals and opportunities for new provision
 - sites considered to be surplus.
 - Provide information to inform the decision making process and evaluate both current and future development proposals including the production of specific local standards relating to playing pitch provision.
- 1.5 Ultimately, the aspirations of the authority and Proactive Southwark (the sport and physical activity network or CSPAN) are to raise participation levels in physical activity across the Borough. It is therefore intended that the findings of this strategy will help to ensure that the quantity and quality of playing pitches, and accessibility to pitches, meets the needs of the local population, now and in the future, thus maximising the opportunity for participation.
- 1.6 This PPS is primarily concerned with voluntary participation by adults and young people in competitive association football (referred to in this document as 'football'), cricket, rugby union and hockey. It presents the key findings arising from survey work and consultation, highlighting areas of both concern and opportunity and sets a vision and strategy for the future delivery of sports pitches across the Borough.

- 1.7 It is important to emphasise that this document examines the provision of playing pitches (i.e. the playing surface, safety margins and the wider area for repositioning the pitch within the playing field) and not playing fields or open spaces (which include grass or other areas which are not used for sport). This is a key distinction as some of the areas surrounding pitches are not used for sport but are important in terms of open space.
- 1.8 The strategy is structured as follows:
- **Section 2 – The Current Picture**
 - A review of key documents, policies and initiatives on a national, regional and local level;
 - An examination of key contextual and demographic information; and
 - Evaluation of current participation trends and playing pitch provision at a national and local level
 - **Section 3 – Methodology for Assessing Supply and Demand**
 - A summary of the process that has been followed.
 - **Section 4 – Supply and Demand Analysis**
 - A quantitative and qualitative appraisal of current playing pitches across Southwark, and an evaluation of demand for pitches in the borough.
 - **Section 5 – Key Findings**
 - The results of the application of the PPM with detailed analysis across the geographical areas (see below) and the calculation of Team Generation Rates across various sports.
 - **Section 6 – Strategy for the Delivery of Playing Pitches across Southwark**
 - The vision, aims and objectives for pitch provision across Southwark.
 - **Section 7 – Action Plan for Future Delivery.**
- 1.9 The adequacy of provision is analysed both on a Borough wide level and within eight more localised analysis areas. These areas correspond to the existing Community Council areas and enable a more detailed understanding of the adequacy of pitches to meet demand across the borough.
- 1.10 The geographical areas used are shown in Table 1.1 overleaf and identifies the wards that fall into each community council area and the population of the area. Population statistics are based on 2007 estimates as produced in January 2009 by the Southwark Analytical Hub.¹

¹ Southwark Analytical Hub – *Southwark's Population: Now and the Future*, Jan 2009

Table 1.1 Locality area breakdowns

Community Council Area	Population	Wards
Borough & Bankside	29,076	Cathedrals, Chaucer
Camberwell	37,460	Camberwell Green, Brunswick Park, South Camberwell
Bermondsey	37,271	Grange, Riverside, South Bermondsey
Dulwich	32,778	Village, East Dulwich, College
Nunhead and Peckham Rye	36,245	The Lane, Nunhead, Peckham Rye
Peckham	19,468	Peckham, Livesey
Rotherhithe	18,831	Rotherhithe, Surrey Docks
Walworth	39,379	Newington, East Walworth, Faraday
Total	250,508	

- 1.11 All data collected as part of this study has been entered into an Excel spreadsheet which automates the calculations within the PPM process. This spreadsheet has also been provided to the Council, enabling analysis of supply and demand issues at a geographical level. This allows detailed analysis and testing of future scenarios.

Link to wider strategic documents

- 1.12 This Strategy is part of a suite of documents and should not be read in isolation.
- 1.13 It is underpinned by the key themes from the recently released Southwark Council Sport & Physical Activity Strategy. It therefore takes into account future participation targets into future supply/demand modelling and also supports some of the key facility related recommendations (eg the introduction of an online pitch booking facility)
- 1.14 It should also be read in conjunction with the wider PPG17 Study, which examines the role of all types of green spaces (eg parks, children's play facilities, allotments etc.) in detail. The pitch quantity, quality and accessibility information feeds directly into Section 10 of the PPG17 Study.

2. The Current Picture

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- 2.1 This section of the report assesses the current context for playing pitch provision both nationally and locally within Southwark. It comprises the following:
- **National context** – a review of key relevant national policies, initiatives and programmes;
 - **Regional context** – a brief review of key documents and strategies across London;
 - **Local context** – an examination of relevant local policies, plans and guidance related to playing pitch provision in the Borough;
 - **Local demographics and profile** – a summary of the key local population demographic features and their potential implications for the provision of playing pitches;
 - **Participation trends** – detail on the demand for pitch sports both nationally and locally; and
 - **Summary** – a summary of the key issues to arise from the analysis of the context.

National context

Making the case for sport

- 2.2 The role of sport and active recreation in delivering quality of life benefits is being increasingly recognised at a national level.
- 2.3 This has been driven by **Game Plan: a strategy for delivering Government’s sport and physical activity objectives (DCMS/Strategy Unit, December 2002)**. This report outlines the Government’s long term vision for increasing participation and high performance in sport: “by 2020 to increase significantly levels of sport and physical activity, particularly among disadvantaged groups, and to achieve sustained levels of success in international competition”.
- 2.4 Building on the key objectives of **Game Plan**, Sport England has recently published its **Strategy for 2008-2011, Grow, Sustain, Excel**. The strategy was developed following detailed consultation with a range of stakeholders and aims to ensure that:
- A substantial – and growing – number of people from across the community play sport;
 - Talented people from all backgrounds are identified early, nurtured and have opportunity to progress to the elite level; and
 - Everyone who plays sport has a quality experience and is able to fulfil their potential.
- 2.5 At the heart of the delivery of these stated objectives is a focus on the roles of the Youth Sport Trust, UK Sport and National Governing Bodies (NGBs) to provide a pathway from school to community to elite sport. Additional focus will be put on developing coaching, maximising the role of volunteers and creating a modern network of clubs.

- 2.6 Sport England is committed to delivering:
- 1 million people doing more sport by 2012-13;
 - A reduction in post-16 drop-off in at least five sports by 25% by 2012-13;
 - A quantifiable increase in satisfaction (actual measure to be determined);
 - Improved talent development systems in at least 25 sports; and
 - A major contribution to the delivery of the Five Hour Sport Offer.
- 2.7 Sport England states that its focus in the future will be solely on sport, whilst still recognising the wider socio-economic benefits that sporting participation brings to society.
- 2.8 One such benefit of sport is the affect it has on improving the health of the nation. The recently published **Health Profile of England (2007)** indicated that in the decade ending 2005, the proportion of obese children rose by over 50%. In addition, in 2005 almost a quarter of the adult population was obese.
- 2.9 In response to this, the government has recently produced a **Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives (2008)** strategy to reduce overall childhood obesity to year 2000 levels by 2020. The Department of Health is responsible for overall policy on obesity and is jointly responsible with the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) for tackling child obesity. However, according to the report, a number of sectors must play a part in tackling obesity, from individuals and families, gym and sports facilities to food retailers and the media.
- 2.10 The Choosing Health White Paper (**Choosing Health, Making Healthier Choices easier 2004**) emphasises that 21st century citizens should seek a healthier approach to life. It highlights three core principles towards making healthy choices easier, specifically:
- Informed choice – people able to make their own decisions;
 - Personalisation – support for individuals; and
 - Working together – effective partnerships.
- 2.11 Increasing exercise was seen to be a key means of achieving some of the objectives in the White Paper. **Choosing Activity: A Physical Activity Action Plan** identifies some key targets which will support increases in physical activity, in particular:
- Improve information and raise awareness of the benefits of activity;
 - Support activity in the community by addressing barriers such as safety, cost and locality;
 - Support activity in early years and schools and improve community access to school facilities; and
 - Support and encourage everyday activities like walking and cycling.
- 2.12 The effective provision of sports pitches in Southwark will contribute to the achievement of some of the key objectives of this document.
- 2.13 Major investment to date and continuing investment relevant to this project has been made into schools through the Physical Education, School Sport and Club Link Strategy (PESSCL). **DfES:**

Learning through PE and Sport (2003) stresses the importance of PE and sport in schools (curricular and extracurricular) and reinforces the role of schools in serving the community.

- 2.14 The case is further illustrated in **Sport Playing Its Part: The Contribution of Sport to Building Safe, Strong and Sustainable Communities (Sport England, 2005)**. This is one of a series of documents published by Sport England outlining how sport can enrich people's quality of life, raise self-esteem and confidence levels and provide enjoyment to individuals. Sport and active recreation also has the potential to contribute to strengthen community involvement, engagement, identity and civic pride.
- 2.15 Sport and other cultural (or leisure) services can be powerful tools to engage all sections of the community and break down barriers between them. Marginalised groups are often more willing to engage with such activities than other government funded activities.
- 2.16 The provision of high quality playing fields in the right location is clearly an important component in driving forward the health and physical activity agenda and increasing participation nationally. This playing pitch strategy will guide the effective distribution of playing pitches across Southwark and seek to maximise opportunities to meet local, regional and national objectives.
- 2.17 The **Building Schools for the Future (BSF)** programme, the largest investment into school estates for over 50 years, aims to bring radical changes to the way that education takes place in schools. In addition, through the extended schools programme, it will provide significant opportunities to improve community resources.
- 2.18 BSF offers the opportunity to:
- Modernise and enhance school facilities, ensuring they are fit for purpose;
 - Create and enhance school club links and provide home grounds for more sports clubs (provided there is no direct cost to BSF);
 - Facilitate the growth of youth sports; and
 - Support and improve opportunities to play sport in school.
- 2.19 **Southwark Schools for the Future (SSF)** is the schools' improvement programme currently underway in Southwark and incorporates the BSF programme. It will direct more than £200m investment into replacing and refurbishing the building stock. The programme will impact 12 secondary schools on thirteen sites, including:
- Four existing local authority secondary schools (one of which will become an academy);
 - Two new schools to meet additional demand located in Walworth and Rotherhithe;
 - Five voluntary aided schools.

Spatial Planning for Sport and Active Recreation (2005)

- 2.20 This document sets out Sport England's intention to provide advice on what type of sports facilities are needed for communities in the future, and to advise on how to protect and improve the current stock of facilities, in particular protecting playing fields.
- 2.21 Sport England takes the definition of spatial planning as set out in Planning Policy Statements 1 (PPS1) as its starting point. This states that:

‘Spatial planning goes beyond traditional land use planning to bring together and integrate policies for the development and use of land with other policies and programmes which influence the nature of places and how they function’.

2.22 Sport England sees the new UK spatial planning system as an opportunity to deliver its own aspirations for sport and recreation, whilst contributing to the goals of partners in public, private and voluntary sectors. With this there is the opportunity to deliver a planned approach towards the provision of facilities helping to reach sustainable development goals.

2.23 These are:

- Taking a broader view of the role of spatial planning as an enabling function which goes beyond the setting and delivery of land-use policy;
- Identifying opportunities for delivering an enhanced quality of life for communities, in the short, medium and longer term;
- Recognising and taking full advantage of the unique ability of sport and active recreation to contribute to a wide array of policy and community aspirations;
- The development of partnership working stimulated by, and perhaps centred on, sport and active recreation as a common interest; and
- Using sport and recreation as one of the building blocks of planning and delivery of sustainable communities.

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

2.24 Planning Policy Guidance Notes set out the government’s policies on different aspects of planning.

2.25 PPG17 states that “the government expects all local authorities to carry out assessments of needs and audits of open space and sports and recreational facilities”.

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

- Supporting an urban renaissance;
- Supporting a rural renewal;
- Promotion of social inclusion and community cohesion;
- Health and well being; and
- Promoting more sustainable development.

2.27 The policy guidance highlights the requirement for local authority decisions regarding open space, sport and recreation to be informed by local needs assessments and an audit of existing provision. Such audits should incorporate qualitative, quantitative and accessibility considerations as well as the overall non-monetary value of the land and the level of use.

2.28 The findings of this Playing Pitch Strategy will form part of the Southwark PPG17 study and will provide greater detail on the standards proposed for outdoor sports facilities in the study.

A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England: Policy on Planning Applications for Development on Playing Fields (Sport England, 1997)

- 2.29 Sport England is a statutory consultee with regards to any developments on playing fields. They state that they will oppose any developments that will result in the loss of playing field space in all but exceptional circumstances.
- 2.30 There are exceptions to this where loss is deemed to be acceptable:
- An assessment of current and future needs has demonstrated that there is an excess of playing field provision in the catchment, and the site has no special significance to the interests of sport;
 - The proposed development is ancillary to the principal use of the site as a playing field or playing fields, and does not affect the quantity or quality of pitches or adversely affect their use;
 - The proposed development affects only land incapable of forming, or forming part of, a playing pitch, and does not result in the loss of or inability to make use of any playing pitch;
 - Lost playing fields would be replaced by a playing field or playing fields of an equivalent or better quality and of equivalent or greater quantity, in a suitable location and subject to equivalent or better management arrangements, prior to the commencement of development; and
 - The proposed development is for an indoor or outdoor sports facility, the provision of which would be of sufficient benefit to the development of sport as to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss of the playing field or playing fields.
- 2.31 Sport England has adopted this position because the loss of any part of a playing field may represent the irretrievable loss of an opportunity for participation in pitch sports, and with it the many benefits which sport brings. This playing pitch strategy will provide an evidence base for informed decision making with regards to playing pitches in the Borough.
- 2.32 A playing field is defined as the whole of a site which contains one or more playing pitches. The definition of a playing pitch was changed in April 2009 to include pitches of 0.2 hectares or more in area. Thus the presence of a single mini soccer pitch is now sufficient to define a playing field.

Regional context

2.33 There are a number of regional and sub-regional strategies that set the context for sports facility provision across London. The main findings of these relevant to the Playing Pitch Strategy for Southwark are summarised below.

The London Plan for Sport and Physical Activity (Sport England)

2.34 The London Plan for Sport aims to:

- Increase overall participation rates by an average of 1% per annum;
- Increase participation by all under-represented groups; and
- Provide the structures needed for individuals to realise their sporting potential.

2.35 The Plan sets out six core themes which were identified as being important :

- The need to maximise opportunities for sport and physical activity through effective and sustainable partnerships;
- To overcome barriers and enable hard to reach groups to participate in sport on a daily basis;
- To increase workspace physical activity in line with normal, daily routines;
- Maximise opportunities for children and young people to make physical activity part of their everyday lives;
- Develop potential within organisations and individuals to maximise personal and sporting success; and
- Change attitudes by raising awareness of the economic, educational, social and health benefits of sport.

Inclusive and Active – A Sport and Physical Activity Action Plan for Disabled People in London, 2007-2012

2.36 Inclusive and Active's vision is 'more active disabled Londoners, achieving their full sporting potential. The aim is a one percent increase in regular participation by disabled people in sport and physical activity each year for the next five years. This is equivalent to an additional 8,000-9,000 disabled people participating each year upto 2012.

2.37 Five key areas have been identified across which a sustained investment will be made:

- Changing the culture;
- Being inclusive;
- Getting people active;
- Creating sporting pathways; and
- Developing people.

2.38 Ten priorities underpin these key themes and include:

- Establish specific commitments from politicians, decision makers and delivery organisations across London to help deliver the vision and associated targets;
- Implement a profile-raising campaign to increase and retain disabled sport's position on the political agenda;
- Develop a network of nominated sports officers, leaders, coaches and teachers;
- Increase the number of existing sport and leisure facilities that are fully accessible and inclusive to disabled people;
- Develop a web portal;
- Develop more inclusive mainstream clubs providing high quality sporting opportunities;
- Improve the sporting pathways for disabled young people and adults;
- Recruit and train more disabled and non-disabled people as sports coaches;
- Train more teachers to deliver high quality physical education and sport to disabled people; and
- Implement a programme of workforce training.

The London Plan

- 2.39 The London Plan is the strategic plan setting out an integrated social, economic and environmental framework for the future development of London, looking forward 15–20 years
- 2.40 There are a number of objectives contained within the Plan which affect the future provision and development of playing pitches. These include:
- **Objective 1:** To accommodate London's growth within its boundaries without encroaching on open spaces;
 - **Objective 2:** To make London a healthier and better city for people to live in;
 - **Objective 5:** To improve London's accessibility.

Sport England London Investment Strategy, 2007 - 2009

- 2.41 The Strategy guides Sport England's investment in community sport and active recreation in London. Targeted investment will help to achieve Sport England's vision of 'creating an active capital through sport and active recreation'.
- 2.42 Sport England's primary role is to sustain and increase participation in community sport. We do this through promoting, investing in and advising on high quality sporting pathways which release potential through:
- Community sports and active recreation;
 - Sports clubs (including competitive sport);
 - Coaches and officiating (many of whom will be volunteers);
 - Player pathways;

- Volunteering; and
- Sports facilities.

2.43 This document will be superseded by the Community Plan for Sport in London, which will be the main strategic document for Sport England in the London region.

Local context

Table 2.1 Local context

Document	Key issues in relation to the PPS
<p>The Southwark Plan</p>	<p>The Southwark Plan was adopted in 2007 and plans for the future use and development of land in Southwark. There are no specific policies relating to sports facilities per se, as outdoor facilities are grouped together under policies affecting open space across the Borough. It sets out a number a number of policies of relevance to playing pitches as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy 3.25 Metropolitan Open Land (MOL) – planning permission will only be granted on MOL for essential facilities for outdoor sport and outdoor recreation; • Policy 3.26 Borough Open Land (BOL) – planning permission will not be granted for development unless it is ancillary to the use of the open space and it is small in scale and does detract from the site’s open nature and character; and • Policy 3.27 Other Open Space (OOS) - planning permission will not be granted for development unless it is ancillary to the use of the open space, it is small in scale and does detract from the site’s open nature and character, it enhances public access to open spaces or land of equivalent or better size and quality is secured within the local catchment area for similar or enhanced use.
<p>Southwark Core Strategy – Local Development Framework (emerging)</p>	<p>The Southwark Core Strategy sets out a clear plan for growth. It was submitted to the Secretary of State in March 2010 and will undergo Examination in Public in July 2010. There are principally three strategic objectives relating to the future provision for community facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1B – achieve educational potential; • 1C – be healthy and active; • 1D - culture, creativity and diversity; and • 2A – Create mixed communities <p>Policy 4 states there will be a wide range of well used community facilities that provide spaces doe many different communities and activities in accessible areas. This includes encouraging a healthy lifestyle by supporting the retention and improvements of facilities which promote healthy lifestyles.</p> <p>Policy 11 is to improve, protect and maintain a network of open spaces and green corridors that will make places attractive and provide sport, leisure and</p>

Document	Key issues in relation to the PPS
	<p>food growing opportunities for a growing population. It recognises the many functions and types of open spaces in Southwark.</p>
<p>Southwark Community Strategy</p>	<p>The Strategy is a 10 year plan (from 2006 to 2016) which outlines the vision for the future development of the Borough and how it will be achieved. It sets out three objectives, including improving individual life chances, making the Borough a better place to live and delivering quality public services.</p> <p>Sport and leisure is inherent throughout several of these objectives, specifically via increased use of, and overall satisfaction with, sports facilities.</p> <p>Healthy lifestyles are also referred to, particularly reducing rates of childhood obesity.</p>
<p>Aylesbury Area Action Plan</p>	<p>The Aylesbury Area Action Plan was adopted in January 2010 and sets out a clear plan for the regeneration of the Aylesbury Estate. This includes ensuring a high quality network of public open spaces, including improvements to Burgess Park and other local open spaces, creating green fingers through the estate. The area action plan also seeks the creation of new community space including for small scale indoor recreation and sports.</p>
<p>Canada Water Area Action Plan</p>	<p>The Canada Water Area Action Plan (AAP) is a plan to regenerate the area around Canada Water and sets out a vision which describes the kind of place that it will be and a strategy for implementing the vision. This includes creating a great place to visit, to relax and have fun and to provide more and improved community facilities which meet the needs of the growing population.</p> <p>Policy 11 supports provision of additional leisure and entertainment facilities in the town centre. Policy 12 supports improvements to sports facilities, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refurbish Seven Islands leisure centre; • Improve sports facilities in Southwark Park; and • Make sure new sports facilities provided in schools are made available to the community for use outside school hours. <p>Policy 18 relates to open spaces and biodiversity. The strategy is to protect and maintain a network of open spaces, green corridors and habitat for wildlife. This includes allocating St Paul's Sports Ground as an open space and bringing it back into active use.</p>
<p>Peckham Area Action Plan</p>	<p>Peckham and Nunhead is identified as a growth area in the Southwark Core Strategy. An area action plan is being prepared to guide regeneration and growth in Peckham and Nunhead. It identifies a number of issues which are central to its regeneration, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring community facilities meet the needs of the community, including ensuring there are the right facilities for young people; • How to make the most of existing community facilities and open spaces; and • The population in Peckham is due to grow through the development of new homes and business space. This will increase demand on community facilities.

Document	Key issues in relation to the PPS
Bankside, Borough and London Bridge Supplementary Planning Document	An SPD is being prepared to guide how development in Bankside, Borough and London Bridge should occur. The Southwark Core Strategy identifies Bankside, Borough and London Bridge as an opportunity area where there will be over 1,900 new homes and 400,000sqm – 500,000sqm of additional business floor space, which will increase demand on community facilities. A key objective of the SPD is for a good quality network of public spaces and sustainable neighbourhoods that provide a range of facilities to meet the needs of local people.
Southwark Healthy Weight Strategy	<p>The London Borough of Southwark has the highest rate of obesity amongst year six children (26%) and the second highest among reception year (14.4%) in London. The Strategy recommends several interventions, including regular physical activity and healthy eating. In terms of target groups, Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Groups are a key target group, along with those classed as socio-economically deprived.</p> <p>There is a focus on healthy living in the workplace as well as schools and pre-schools.</p>
Children and Young People's Plan	The overall aim of the Plan is to improve the quality of life for children in the Borough by creating more positive, fun activities for young people to engage in to slow the rates of childhood obesity in the Borough.
Cultural Strategy	<p>The Cultural Strategy provides a framework and vision for the future aims and priorities for culture, arts, heritage and events in the Borough. The vision is one of Southwark at the centre of London life and ensures that all four are accessible and celebrated by the Borough's residents.</p> <p>There are potential links between the arts programme and sports development/events operated by the Council.</p>
Southwark Sport & Physical Activity Strategy 2009-2013	<p>The Strategy was developed for the London Borough of Southwark on behalf of Proactive Southwark (the local community sport and physical activity network). It is shaped by seven strategic themes and three challenges initially developed by the Management Board.</p> <p>The three strategy challenges are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure ownership of the strategy and action plan by partners; • Develop sustainable community sport and physical activity programmes; and • Develop a prioritised and strategic framework for provision <p>The seven strategic themes are outlined below. There are several issues and recommendations relating to playing pitches under each theme and these have been highlighted under each heading.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use physical activity for both the prevention and management of ill-health; • Improve access and choice for the whole population: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - pilot a model of a socially-focused sports club • Maximise the use of planning policy in providing for sport and physical activity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - develop a framework or hierarchy of priority projects for allocation of s106 funding from developers

Document	Key issues in relation to the PPS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - formalise arrangements for community use at all new school sites developed through the SSF Programme • Provide a network of appropriate spaces and places for sport and physical activity; • Improve access and choice for the whole population; • Build and maintain an effective multi-agency delivery system for sport and physical activity; • Maximise the use of London 2012 to promote physical activity; and • Maximise the impact of all resources. <p>The Strategy requires a move away from traditional approaches to sport and recreation and has focused more on making best use of the open space and sports facilities infrastructure in the Borough.</p>

2.44 The effective delivery of playing pitches across the Borough will contribute to the achievement of the aims and objectives outlined in the local plans and strategies identified above.

National Governing Bodies (NGBs) of Sport Strategies

2.45 Each of the pitch sports NGBs has recently produced its national strategy leading up to 2012. Each strategy details how the sport will contribute towards delivering the targets of Sport England's new Sustain, Grow & Excel targets. It is important to understand the focus for each sport to ensure that future facility planning at a local level considers future development outcomes.

2.46 England Cricket has yet to publish its strategy. However, in 2008 the ECB announced it was putting £30m into improving sports facilities across the country.

The FA's National Game Strategy

2.47 The FA has recently produced its new national game strategy. Its vision is that 'everyone will have the chance to be actively involved in football in a safe, positive, high-quality environment where they are given the appropriate support to be the best they can'. To fulfil this vision, a number of targets have been set, to:

- Retain 125,000 existing teams and create 20,500 new teams;
- Use the FA's RESPECT campaign to reduce poor behaviour;
- Ensure everyone in youth football has a CRB check;
- Ensure 75% of all registered youth teams attain the FA Charter Standard Award;
- Train one million 5-11 year olds through the FA Tesco Skills Programme;
- Ensure every youth team has at least one FA-qualified coach;
- Ensure equality across all areas of the game and FA programmes;
- Create a national database and to communicate to every participant – players, coaches, referees, clubs, leagues and volunteers;

- Ensure 75% of football stakeholders agree the FA has improved grassroots football;
- Retain 26,000 active referees and recruit 8,000 new referees; and
- Invest £300m to improve facilities.

2.48 The Strategy has 4 clear goals:

1. Grow and retain participation;
2. Raise standards and address abusive behaviour;
3. Develop better players;
4. Run the game effectively.

2.49 Supporting the four goals are two key areas of focus – a skilled workforce and improved facilities.

2.50 The target to create 20,500 new teams is likely to increase the need for pitches from within the community and it is important that a future increase in demand is built into the supply/demand modelling within this assessment report. There is significant funding available to improve facilities and the subsequent strategy will clearly identify where the priority investment needs are within Southwark.

RFU Strategic Plan – 2009-2015/16

2.51 The overarching mission statement for the RFU is to ‘lead, promote and govern the whole of English rugby union with expertise and equity, whilst maintaining the game’s core values and ensuring it remains a sport for all’.

2.52 In terms of the community game, the RFU has set 4 critical success factors:

- Number of people playing the game at 16+;
- Number of matches being played;
- Improving the sustainability of clubs; and
- Number of effective people supporting the playing of the game.

2.53 These success factors are underpinned by a number of objectives:

- Increase adult participation in clubs by 37% over the plan period through a recruitment and retention programme;
- Increase the number of adult teams by one per section 1 club;
- Increase by 350 the number of clubs with mini and youth Seal of Approval by 2011/12;
- 65% of section 1 clubs to achieve whole club seal of approval;
- 100% of clubs with mini and youth players to have formal, written links with at least two schools;
- 65% of section 1 clubs to have formal, written links with HE/FE institutions; and
- Reduce the number of ‘at risk’ clubs (ie those at risk of going insolvent) to 30 by the end of the plan period.

England Hockey 2009-13

- 2.54 The key objectives for England Hockey going forward are to:
- Attract and retain more people into the sport – 10,000 more adults and 32,500 more juniors;
 - Help our clubs and associations to develop and thrive;
 - Embed the single system;
 - Achieve international podium success;
 - Maximise the opportunity of 2012;
 - Raise the sport's profile and communications;
 - Broaden the income base; and
 - Maintain and improve the quality of our governance and operations.

Local geography

- 2.55 In analysing the need and demand for any new sport and recreation facilities it is important to assess the size and composition of the local leisure markets and the impact they will have upon facility usage.
- 2.56 The London Borough of Southwark is centrally located on the south side of the Thames, immediately opposite the cities of London and Westminster. It reflects the complex socio-economic profile of the three metropolitan boroughs from which it was formed in 1965 – Bermondsey, Southwark and Camberwell.
- 2.57 Borough and Bankside in the historic north of the borough, is now a vibrant cultural and commercial quarter at the heart of the capital, with new commercial, cultural and retail developments including Tate Modern. Having previously been dominated by manufacturing and docks, the Rotherhithe and Bermondsey areas have undergone a transformation in the last 10 years, and over 3,000 new homes of a mixed tenure have been built in the area.
- 2.58 Peckham, Newington and Camberwell in the centre of the borough, are characterised by some of the most deprived communities in the country albeit with pockets of affluence. This area is significantly more multi-cultural than the rest of the borough, speaking over 100 languages with wide-ranging needs and expectations.
- 2.59 Peckham has been the subject of one of the most extensive regeneration projects in England and is now coming to the end of a development phase in which huge changes have been made to the physical and social structure of the area. The Peckham Programme continues to develop programmes and initiatives to improve the social and economic prospects of the local community as a whole.
- 2.60 The age profile, unemployment rates, mobility and ethnic breakdown of Southwark residents all affect their propensity to use pitches and sports provision in general. For example, the cost of using facilities is a barrier for using facilities for people with low incomes whilst the locality of provision is a barrier for people without their own transport. Table 2.2 overleaf summarises the key demographic trends and the likely implications on pitch usage across the Borough.

Table 2.2 Demographic analysis summary

Demographic indicators	Impact on facility usage
The most recent mid-year estimate population estimate is approximately 250,508 which is projected to rise significantly to 348,700 by 2026, an increase of around 39%.	Such a population growth rate in the Borough is likely to result in a significant increase in demand for pitches in the future.
Southwark can be described as having a relatively young population, with around half (50.8%) in the 20-44 year old category compared to the London average (43.7%). The proportion of residents aged 65 and above (9.2%) is below the London average (11.7%).	The presence of a relatively young population suggests that facilities should be tailored to maximise the sporting development of young people. In the context of playing pitches this means ensuring a sufficient supply of junior/mini pitches, which place a focus on skill development, are provided in areas of need.
52% of households do not have access to a vehicle compared to a London average of 37% and a national figure of 27%.	The number of households without a car or van is significantly above the London and national averages. It is therefore likely that residents access facilities either on foot or use public transport. The importance of localised provision in increasing participation rates should therefore be recognised.
37% of the Borough's residents are from a multi-ethnic background. The figure is lower than the London average (71%) and significantly lower than the national average (90%).	Southwark is a particularly diverse Borough. Sports facility providers will need to ensure facilities remain accessible to all sectors of the community as well as reflecting the specific sport demands of various ethnic groups. This creates a need for formal as well as more informal sports facilities, such as cycle paths/walkways etc.
Unemployment within Southwark (6%) is above the London average (4.4%) and national average (3.4%).	This is likely to impact on the propensity to participate and cost in particular may be a barrier to access.

2.61 It will be essential that the strategy takes into account these key demographic indicators and that facility provision is tailored to meet the needs of the local area.

Participation trends - national

- 2.62 Despite the explosion of local authority provision during the 1970's and the private health and fitness boom of the 1990s, participation in sport and recreation has remained generally static over the past 30 years. More recently, the importance of recording participation has led to the development of a variety of analysis tools, most notably Sport England's Active People survey.
- 2.63 In addition, the FA has begun to analyse its affiliation database to understand conversion rates (ie percentage of the population playing football). It is important to understand current trends when planning for the adequacy of future facility provision.

Active People survey

- 2.64 Government initiatives to increase participation in sport and active recreation prompted the Active People survey in 2005/6, the largest ever survey of its kind to be undertaken in Europe. Comprising telephone surveys of 363,724 adults in England (aged 16 plus), it has provided reliable statistics on participation in sport and active recreation for all 354 local authorities in England at a local level. A minimum of 1,000 interviews were completed in every local authority.
- 2.65 The survey was repeated during 2007/08 ('Active People 2') allowing analysis of changes and trends in participation.
- 2.66 The survey revealed that in 2007/08, 6.85 million adults (aged 16 and over) participated in sport three times a week for 30 minutes at moderate intensity (16.5%). In 2005/6, this figure was 6.3 million adults (15.5%), so there has been a statistically significant increase of 552,000 adult participants in the two years between 2005/06 and 2007/08. It is important to note that these figures relate to the target of getting an additional one million residents to participate in sport by 2012 / 2013 and therefore exclude recreational walking.
- 2.67 In addition to providing an overview of overall participation, the survey results enable analysis of sport specific participation. The survey reveals that in the two-year period between 2005/6 (Active People Survey 1) and 2007/8 (Active People Survey 2), 14 of the 46 sports that are eligible for four-year funding from Sport England have shown a statistically significant increase in participation. Of particular significance to this playing pitch strategy is that the evidence suggests that football is one of the top three sports in terms of the increase in participation, with an additional 122,000 people taking up the game.
- 2.68 The breakdown of participation by sports affecting this playing pitch strategy, and the change between Active People 1 and Active People 2 is shown in Table 2.3.

Table 2.3 - Sport by sport results – Active People Survey 1 and 2

Sport and recreational activities	% of the adult population (16 plus) taking part at least once a week – 2006	% of the adult population (16 plus) taking part at least once a week – 2008	% change in participation
Football (all)	4.97	5.15	+0.21 (statistically significant)
Cricket	0.48	0.49	+0.01 (not statistically significant)
Rugby union	0.48	0.49	+0.10 (statistically significant)
Hockey	0.23	0.24	+0.01

2.69 Key national statistics, trends, issues and implications for future demand for playing pitches are outlined in Table 2.4. This information is based on Sport England NGB guidance packs that outline the participation status for each sport.

Table 2.4 National trends in pitch sports

	Key facts	Key trends	Implication for pitches and ancillary facilities
Football	1.47 million young people aged 11-15 participate in football regularly.	More children are playing due to popularity of mini soccer.	More mini soccer and junior pitches are needed to ensure players develop their skills using appropriate sized facilities.
	Female participation has risen 21%, equating to 35,000 more players.	More women are playing the game.	Improved quality of ancillary facilities and in particular the availability of segregated changing facilities.
	Informal 5-a-side football has grown in popularity in recent years.	More mid-week fixtures (often 5-a-side leagues) and more non-grass pitches.	Players defecting to five-a-side, therefore additional synthetic turf and indoor space may be required. This is particularly the case in Southwark, which has a strong small-sided football sector.
	The Active People survey indicates that 7.1% of the active population now play football regularly, making football the 5th most popular sport in the UK in terms of participation, with	More pitches will be needed.	The vast number of children playing mini-soccer will result in the need for more junior and mini pitches in the future.

	Key facts	Key trends	Implication for pitches and ancillary facilities
	2.9 million participants.		
Cricket	28% of cricketers are aged 16-19, compared to 12% who have participated in any sport or active recreation.	Increased participation by young people.	More pitches used for Kwik cricket and new mobile pitches introduced in schools. Also, increase in weekday usage of pitches, which often restrict senior training sessions.
	Female participation has risen from 0.14% to 0.19%, a rise of 0.05 percent. This represents a change from 16,000 to 29,000 participants, 13,000 additional female participants.	Increased participation by women.	Improved access needed to quality training pitches and improved ancillary facilities in smaller clubs is required.
	England won The Ashes in 2005 and subsequently lost the series in 2007.	The England and Wales Cricket Board has reported a 50% increase in participation across all forms of cricket.	Increased pressure on pitch availability, and requirements for additional ancillary accommodation.
Rugby union	<i>Rugby - Making An Impact</i> is the most comprehensive study into participation trends in rugby union in England. 254 ex-players, 193 people involved in rugby at all levels, and 1,708 members of the public were interviewed between January and April 2003.	Rugby union is predicted to grow by 0.1% from 0.6% to 0.7% between 2005 and 2013. This represents a 17% change.	Clubs will be targeted to ensure they can run additional teams, therefore the demand for pitches will at least remain static or potentially increase (positive outcome of Rugby World Cup 2007 may have an impact).
	The Active People survey indicates that rugby is the 21st most popular sport in the UK, with participation rates of 0.7%.	The RFU has initiatives in place to increase opportunities and promote the sport.	May require better quality pitches with ancillary facilities, particularly to cater for the junior entry point into the sport.
	Women's participation has increased significantly in recent years.	Increase in participation by women. Women's rugby is still a minority sport but is stronger than ever, particularly in universities.	Improved clubhouse facilities and increased access to pitches.

	Key facts	Key trends	Implication for pitches and ancillary facilities
Hockey	Hockey is one of top five most popular games in schools, although adult participation has declined recently and the number of children citing it as enjoyable has dropped from 13% to 10%. The Active People survey indicates that 0.3% of the population participate in hockey.	Slight decline in youth participation. Emphasis therefore is placed on promoting hockey among young people to secure the future of the game. However, many clubs still do not have access to STPs	Continuing requirement for STPs and improved clubhouse facilities to meet league requirements and to encourage club/team formation is required. New, football-orientated third generation pitches are not suitable for hockey and this should be recognised when planning future facility upgrades.

2.70 Whilst the above provides a useful indication as to the changing nature of pitch sports, it must be acknowledged that trends vary across the country. Therefore the local context is discussed below.

Local trends in participation

2.71 Sport England's Active People Survey has researched the participation rates of adults. The survey measures levels of participation in sport and active recreation and its contribution to improving the health of the nation. It includes walking and cycling for recreation in addition to more traditional formal and informal sports. Regular participation is described as three days a week for a minimum of 30 minutes of moderate intensity.

2.72 In addition, a range of other important sport related measures are included such as club membership, involvement in competition, receiving tuition or coaching and contributing to sport through voluntary activity.

2.73 Active People 2 results for Southwark revealed a participation rate of 22.3% of adults participating in 3x30 minutes of moderate activity per week. In 2006 the figure was 18.4%, so there has been a significant increase.

2.74 Participation in football will be measured against other local authorities using data derived from the FA County Administration System. This is explored in more detail in Section 4.

Market segmentation

2.75 Sport England has developed 19 sporting segments to help understand the nations' attitudes and motivations – why people play sport and why they don't. This is particularly important to understand in order to ensure that the facilities in Southwark cater for the needs and expectations of local residents.

2.76 Residents are classified according to their key characteristics. The dominant groups in the Borough are explained in Table 2.5.

Table 2.5 – Dominant Population Groups in Southwark

Market segment	Age	Status	Characteristics	% of population
Kev	36-45	Pub league team mates	More likely to be part of a social club that does some physical recreation. Enjoys team sports, especially football, and also combat sports or low intensity social activities such as darts or pool. Other motivations include training to compete, to meet friends or to help with injury.	5.8%
Brenda	46-55	Older working women	Some participation. Likely to be without a car and walks, rather than cycles, to get to places. Enjoys swimming and keep fit classes but unlikely to be a member of a sports club. Main motivation is to lose weight. Longer opening hours and cheaper admissions would encourage those wanting to do more.	4%
Elsie & Arnold	66+	Widowed Retired	Health problems and disability being major inhibitors to activity Those that do participate tend towards low intensity activities, such as walking, bowls or dancing (traditional ballroom), safe environments would encourage this group to walk more often.	10.6%
Jamie	18-25	Sports team drinkers	Second highest participation rate of all the types; enjoy watching and playing	5.4%

Market segment	Age	Status	Characteristics	% of population
			team sports, especially football. Fitness classes are not appealing to them, but combat sports, social activities and weight training would be. Less likely of the Group to be a member of a health/fitness club, but is a sports club member. Motivations for participation include improving performance and being with mates	

2.77 Analysis of the profile of the Borough therefore suggests that while not all residents have the propensity to participate in pitch sports, the provision of high quality and appropriate facilities may encourage several sectors of the population to participate.

Summary

2.78 Table 2.6 summarises the main implications that the contextual review has on Southwark and the provision of playing pitches.

Table 2.6 - Southwark contextual summary

Key Issues	Role of this strategy in achieving these objectives
National	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The importance of meeting wider national policy objectives, particularly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provision of opportunities for identified target groups promoting the health related benefits of sport and leisure activities increasing mass participation levels The importance of closely reflecting National Governing Body of Sport priorities; and The importance of delivering sustainable communities. 	<p>Effective provision of playing pitches can play a key role in meeting these objectives.</p> <p>The strategy will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highlight geographical deficiencies in provision and participation (through the number of teams) and provide suitable recommendations; Recognise initiatives aimed at increasing participation levels to look at the future provision; and The strategy will contribute to the delivery of good quality playing pitches that will enhance local green space and subsequently the overall quality of the environment.

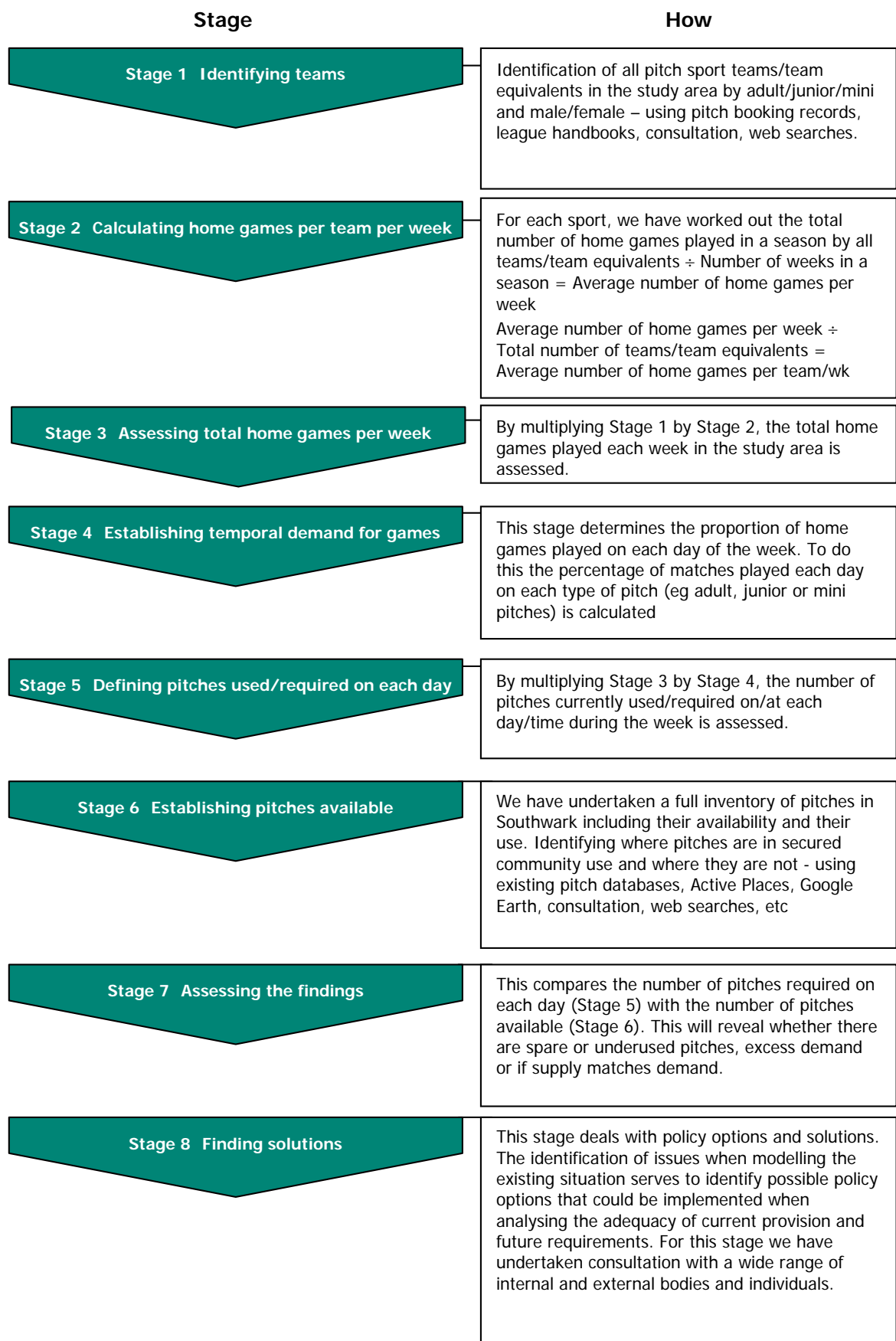
Key Issues	Role of this strategy in achieving these objectives
Regional	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The focus on increasing sports participation across inner London is a key target in light of the Olympics; The role that facilities can play in meeting this objective cannot be understated. 	<p>The playing pitch strategy will integrate with regional documents and provide an evidence base for decision making.</p>
Local	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The need to ensure that outdoor sports provision takes into account the context of the area, specifically the urban and rural mix of the Borough; A desire to increase the number of people who have the opportunity to take part in various sporting activity, in particular in disadvantaged groups and areas; The need to ensure that facility provision is sufficient to provide a basis for meeting local and national targets; and The role of playing pitches in meeting wider local corporate aims and objectives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The strategy will provide an understanding of the level of pitch provision required to stimulate increased participation in pitch sports across all sectors and to accommodate this increased demand in future years; The strategy will provide an awareness of local need and will ensure that local facilities are delivered to meet the needs of all residents; and The strategy will consider the provision of pitches in the context of the character of the Borough.

3. Playing Pitch Methodology

03

- 3.1 *'Towards a Level Playing Field: A manual for the Production of a Playing Pitch Strategy'* was launched in Spring 2003 and updated the previous methodology from 1991.
- 3.2 This revised methodology was produced by PMP following widespread consultation, in conjunction with a steering group comprising representatives from the Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR), Local Government Association, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM), Loughborough University and Sport England.
- 3.3 The aim of the Playing Pitch Methodology (PPM) is to determine the number of pitches required for each activity based on demand in an actual or predicted set of circumstances.
- 3.4 The essential difference between the methodology and previous approaches based on standards is that, instead of using land area per head of population as the basic unit, it measures demand (at peak times) in terms of teams requiring pitches and then compares this with the pitches available, thus providing a tangible measure of the adequacy of existing supply.
- 3.5 The particular advantage of this methodology is that it is related precisely to the local situation and the task of collating and analysing the information highlights problems and issues from which policy options and solutions can be explored.
- 3.6 The revised methodology incorporates:
 - A more holistic view of pitch provision as one element of open space;
 - The concept of 'team equivalents' and 'match equivalents' to reflect the requirements of the small-sided games;
 - The refinement of team generation rates;
 - A revised definition of a pitch (down to 0.2ha, which is now the official definition);
 - The refined quantitative audits of pitches by the use of multiplication factors for:
 - Availability/accessibility;
 - Quality (to include the importance of ancillary provision at pitch sites as well as pitches themselves);
 - Carrying capacity.
- 3.7 The PPM comprises eight stages, shown in Figure 3.1. Stages one to six involve numerical calculations, whilst Stages seven and eight develop issues and solutions. The methodology is employed to analyse the adequacy of current provision and to assess possible future situations, in order that latent and future demand (identified through Team Generation Rates), and the problems with quality, use and capacity of existing pitches can be taken into account. The expected increase in population is taken into account through the modelling of a future year – in this case, 2029.
- 3.8 Figure 3.1 shows the eight stages of the PPM and how each stage has been delivered upon.

Figure 3.1 The key stages of the Playing Pitch Methodology



- 3.9 PPM calculations take into account only those pitches that are secured for community use, in line with Sport England guidance. However, other pitches that exist but do not have secured community use have been identified.
- 3.10 The Football Association (FA) has now collects participation data through the County Administration Systems, enabling accurate benchmarking against similar authorities and more accurate assessments of latent demand. The information available has been used to add value to the findings of the strategy, enabling more detailed investigation of the reasons behind key issues. This is shown in Section 5.

Our approach

Demand

- 3.11 The success of the methodology outlined above depends largely on obtaining as accurate a tally as possible of the number of teams and pitches within Southwark. To achieve this, a full audit of pitches, users and providers within the authority boundary was conducted.
- 3.12 In order to ascertain demand and understand key issues for in the local area questionnaires (which can be found in Appendix A) were sent to all known football, cricket, rugby and hockey clubs based within the authority boundaries (identified in governing body and county association handbooks, league handbooks, pitch booking records, websites, local press, the previous PPS and local knowledge).
- 3.13 Whilst a high response rate is desired, a 100% questionnaire response rate is not needed from clubs. This is because missing club information along with other views on the adequacy of supply can be attained through a variety of sources including:
- Telephone calls to national governing bodies, league secretaries, clubs and schools all providing qualitative information as well adding to the quantitative detail. Consultation with Council officers also provides important quantitative and qualitative information;
 - Extensive internet research, through national databases including the Football Association, Rugby Football Union, England and Wales Cricket Board and England Hockey;
 - Consultation with local clubs, other sporting organisations and individuals via a workshop event;
 - Council pitch booking records and knowledge; and
 - Key issues emerging from individual stakeholder consultations.
- 3.14 The purpose of the club surveys was to cross check information and gather qualitative information from clubs. The total response rate for the number of returned surveys was low relative to other studies of this type. To overcome this issue a number of 'significant' clubs was identified and contacted by phone, to both cross-check facility usage information and to obtain qualitative information concerning pitches and ancillary facilities. 'Significant' clubs were identified according to the number of teams, and therefore the greatest level of demand for pitches in the Borough.
- 3.15 A significant amount of consultation has recently been undertaken with sports clubs, mainly in preparation for the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy and an issue throughout this study could be that of consultation fatigue. The information contained within the Strategy was fully analysed and has, where appropriate, informed the findings of this report.
- 3.16 The information collected from clubs (users) was substantiated by a wider programme of consultation with wider stakeholders including:

- The relevant NGB development officers for London;
 - Sports development officers;
 - Sports specific forums; and
 - A workshop event held for clubs and other sporting organisations and representatives in May 2009.
- 3.17 This additional information has been fed into the audit and qualitative analysis to ensure that sufficient data is collected to undertake PPM calculations and also to provide clubs with a further opportunity to comment. These consultation methods combined have allowed us to be able to make robust assessment of needs.
- 3.18 To ensure accurate auditing of football teams in Southwark, FA Local Area data for the 2007/08 season was studied to ascertain the total team numbers. This was further supplemented by studying fixture lists to find home pitch locations. Together with the returned club questionnaires and follow up consultation outlined above, the figures therefore provide an accurate indication of teams who play in the Borough.

Team equivalents

- 3.19 The Towards a Level Playing Field methodology suggests that the concept of a ‘team equivalent’ or ‘unit of play’ is used to indicate discrete groups of demand for a pitch, in particular to reflect the requirements of small-sided games. This issue is particularly important in Southwark because the majority of schools do not have their own on-site pitches, and therefore use nearby park sites for curriculum delivery.
- 3.20 Schools therefore deliver their outdoor PE curriculum on local parks or recreation grounds. The table below outlines the pitch sites that are used by schools.

Table 3.1 Known ‘formal’ school use of sports sites

Site	School use
Burgess Park	Walworth Academy
Paterson Park	City of London Academy
Peckham Rye Park	Harris Girls School (future) Harris Boys Academy
Mary Datchelor Playing Fields	Kingsdale School
Tabard Garden STP	Globe Academy (proposed next year)

- 3.21 Additional weekday usage by schools has a detrimental effect on these sites and means that, in theory, they should be ‘protected’ by limiting weekend community use. These sites also require higher levels of maintenance to ensure they continually meet the quality demands of the community.
- 3.22 To account for these usage patterns the weekly carrying capacity of the pitches in table 3.1 has been decreased, which means that each pitch is able to accommodate less matches than those with no school use. This will ensure that the increased usage by schools is recognised in the PPM.

- 3.23 The demand for school pitches from school teams however will not impact upon the demand for pitches on the peak day. The demand for pitches therefore from school teams has not been included in the model.
- 3.24 A similar logic is applied to casual use of community pitches. Training on grass pitches produces wear and tear and reduces the capacity of pitches for competitive play. The carrying capacity of those pitches that are known to be used for casual play are reduced. Casual use of parks pitches for training, does not however, affect the demand for pitches on the peak day.

Supply

- 3.25 As well as understanding the demand for pitches, a full audit of the supply of pitches is an essential component of a Playing Pitch Strategy.
- 3.26 Detailed data on the current pitches in Southwark was compiled by:
- Drawing on the findings of the audit of open spaces and outdoor sports facilities carried out in 2005;
 - Consulting with Council officers relating to current and future (planned) site development proposals;
 - Undertaking site visits to all identified pitches using the site assessment matrix provided in the 'Towards a Level Playing Field' toolkit;
 - Analysing pitch bookings; and
 - Internet searches and local consultation.

Availability and accessibility

- 3.27 The ownership and accessibility of pitches will influence their actual availability for community use. The term 'secured community use' has been adopted to define this. This embraces:
- All local authority facilities;
 - (where appropriate) school facilities where they are subject to formal community use agreements;
 - Other institutional facilities that are available to the public as a result of formal community use agreements; and
 - Any facilities that are owned, used or maintained by clubs/private individuals and which, as a matter of policy and practice, are available to large sections of the public through membership of a club or through an admission fee.

4. Supply of Pitches

04

Introduction

4.1 This section outlines the current situation in Southwark in terms of pitch provision and demand for football, cricket, rugby and hockey pitches. This section therefore takes into consideration:

- Overall pitch stock;;
- Community pitches and non-community pitches
- Location of pitches;
- Quality of pitches via site visit assessments;
- Clubs and teams in Southwark; and
- Consultation feedback with regards to current and future needs.

Supply: playing pitch provision in Southwark

Pitch stock

4.2 The research methods outlined in Section 3 have identified 117 individual playing pitches in Southwark. This figure includes all known public, private, school and other pitches whether or not they are in secured community use. The full audit of pitches can be seen in Appendix B. These pitches comprise:

- 45 adult football pitches;
- 8 junior football pitches;
- 10 mini soccer pitches;
- 33 cricket pitches;
- 7 adult rugby union pitches;
- 2 junior rugby union pitches;
- 1 Gaelic football pitch; and
- 9 full sized Synthetic Turf Pitches (STPs).

4.3 Of these 115 pitches, 94 (82%) are full-size adult football, cricket, rugby and hockey pitches. This equates to circa one pitch for every 2178 adults (16 plus) in Southwark. This ratio of pitches to adults compares poorly with many other authorities for which data is currently available (from PMP's database) as shown in Table 4.1. The ratio of pitches to adults is also lower than the national average. It must also be noted that the number of junior and mini pitches is lower than in many other authorities.

Table 4.1 Ratio of adult pitches per 1,000 adults

Local Authority	Ratio (Pitches: adults)
Kennett District Council	1:365
St Albans City and District Council	1:540
Chichester District Council	1:599
South Somerset District Council	1:608
Halton Borough Council	1:677
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	1:761
Lichfield District Council	1:766
North Lincolnshire Council	1:773
North Wiltshire District Council	1:804
Derwentside District Council	1:815
Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council	1:867
South Ribble Borough Council	1:891
Swindon	1:926
Adur District Council	1:947
Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council	1:968
England	1:989
Ipswich Borough Council	1:992
Northamptonshire County	1:1,015
St Helens	1:1,050
Portsmouth City Council	1:1,100
Darlington Borough Council	1:1,150
Sandwell MBC	1:1,327
Wolverhampton City Council	1:1,537
London Borough of Southwark	1:2,178

- 4.4 The above table does not include any inner London borough comparator authorities, and therefore this comparator is not particularly valid as an indicator of quantitative adequacy. We have not been able to obtain comparisons for inner-London boroughs.
- 4.5 Therefore, to present a more useful level of analysis, the data in Active Places Power has been used to compare the total number of grass pitches per 1000 people in Southwark, with the number of pitches per 1000 in each of its ONS 'nearest neighbour' authorities. This analysis is shown in table 4.2 overleaf.

Table 4.2 Comparison of grass pitches per 1000 population

	Grass pitches per 1000 population
England	1:1,099
Hackney	1:2,008
Lewisham	1:2,393
Southwark	1:2,550
Haringey	1:2,706
Lambeth	1:6,653

- 4.6 The amount of playing pitch provision per 1,000 population is broadly similar to its ONS nearest neighbour authorities, although provision in Lambeth is significantly below what should be expected from an inner London Borough. It should be recognised that this is a purely quantitative comparison which does not consider quality or accessibility to pitches.
- 4.7 In addition to the grass pitches there are nine full size synthetic turf pitches (STPs) within Southwark. Only the pitch at Sacred Heart Roman Catholic School has a third generation, rubber crumb surface. For a Borough with circa 250,000 people, Southwark would be expected to have more 3G pitches.
- 4.8 There are a number of facility development projects in the pipeline which will deliver additional synthetic provision in the Borough. For example, there are plans to introduce new small-sided, synthetic provision in Peckham which will provide important pay and play opportunities in the area for local teams to train. It is important that this facility offers informal, training opportunities alongside formal league organisations.
- 4.9 All hockey participation takes place on sand-based synthetic pitches at Alleyn’s School, Dulwich College and James Allens Girl’s School. While sand-based synthetic facilities are considered suitable for football training, they are rarely used in competitive match play due to local and national football league regulations.

Community pitches

- 4.10 In line with ‘Towards a Level Playing Field: A manual for the Production of a Playing Pitch Strategy’ (Sport England and CCPR 2003), our definition of ‘community pitches’ is those pitches with ‘secured community use’.
- 4.11 In practice this definition embraces:
- Pitches which are in local authority management or other public ownership or management;
 - Any facilities owned, used or maintained by clubs/private individuals which as a matter of policy or practice are available for use by large sections of the public through membership of a club or admission fee. In either case the ‘cost of use’ must be reasonable and affordable for the majority of the community. ‘Reasonable cost’ implies that pitch hire rates are broadly similar to other public sector provided pitches;
 - Pitches at education sites which which meet one or more of the criteria set out in 4.12 below; and

- Any other institutional facilities which are available to the public as a result of formal dual/community agreements.
- 4.12 In line with 'Towards A Level Playing Field', pitches at educational establishments are only considered to be 'secured' for community use if one or more of the following is applicable:
- There is a formal community use agreement in place;
 - There is a leasing management arrangement between the Council and the school, requiring the pitch to be available to community teams;
 - A policy of community use minuted by the school, including the provision of a tariff of charges;
 - Minutes of the board of school governors allowing use of pitches by community teams;
 - Written commitment from the school; and
 - where it is the proved intention of the school to maintain access for community teams to its pitch(es) at peak times for the next two or more years.
- 4.13 **For the purposes of this strategy, only schools who indicated that they have a formal community use agreement for use of their pitches are considered as accessible community pitches.** While several schools provide access for local community teams they are actually on a preferential basis and tend to be due to a direct relationship between the school and a member of the club accessing the facilities. This is particularly the case at the independent schools in the Borough, which tend not to invite community use other than by the odd club (eg Tulse Hill Hockey Club uses Dulwich College).
- 4.14 None of the state schools in Southwark have their own outdoor sports pitches. This puts the Borough at a disadvantage compared to other local authorities because the community use of school pitches can an important additional resource. However, state schools are forced to use other facilities and many use park pitches during the week which increases the 'wear and tear' on those pitches being used by community clubs for competitive matches.
- 4.15 This links to the opportunities offered through the Southwark Schools for the Future Programme. Whilst it is unlikely that grass pitch provision will increase as a result of the re-organisation programme, there is an opportunity to provide additional STPs at school sites. Third generation STPs have been sanctioned for use by The FA for competitive matches and can in theory accommodate a high number of matches on a weekly basis. They can also attract high revenue returns and should therefore be seen as a good investment. It is recommended that Southwark Council seizes opportunities to include such facilities in any facility proposals going forward.
- 4.16 Of the 115 pitches identified, 88 (77%) are secured for use by the local community. This is reflective of the small number of facilities which are located on school sites. As demonstrated in Table 4.3 overleaf this places Southwark well above average in comparison to other local authorities in PMP's database. It is important to note that comparisons are made for information only, from a sample of other authorities that PMP has completed work for.

Table 4.3 Percentage of secured community pitches

Local authority	% of pitches secured for community use
Ipswich Borough Council	84%
North Lincolnshire Council	77%
London Borough of Southwark	77%
Wolverhampton City Council	73%
Croydon Borough Council	72%
South Somerset District Council	69%
Sandwell MBC	67%
Worcestershire County	66%
Lichfield District Council	65%
Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council	64%
Maidstone Borough Council	61%
Mid Devon District Council	57%
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	56%
Swindon Borough Council	55%
Halton Borough Council	54%
Adur District Council	53%
Darlington Borough Council	50%
St Albans City and District Council	49%
Derwentside District Council	47%
South Ribble Borough Council	47%
Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council	44%
Chichester District Council	43%

- 4.17 Unfortunately, without access to the playing pitch strategies for Southwark's ONS nearest neighbours, it has not been possible to compare the percentage of secured community use pitches with those nearest neighbours.

Location of pitches

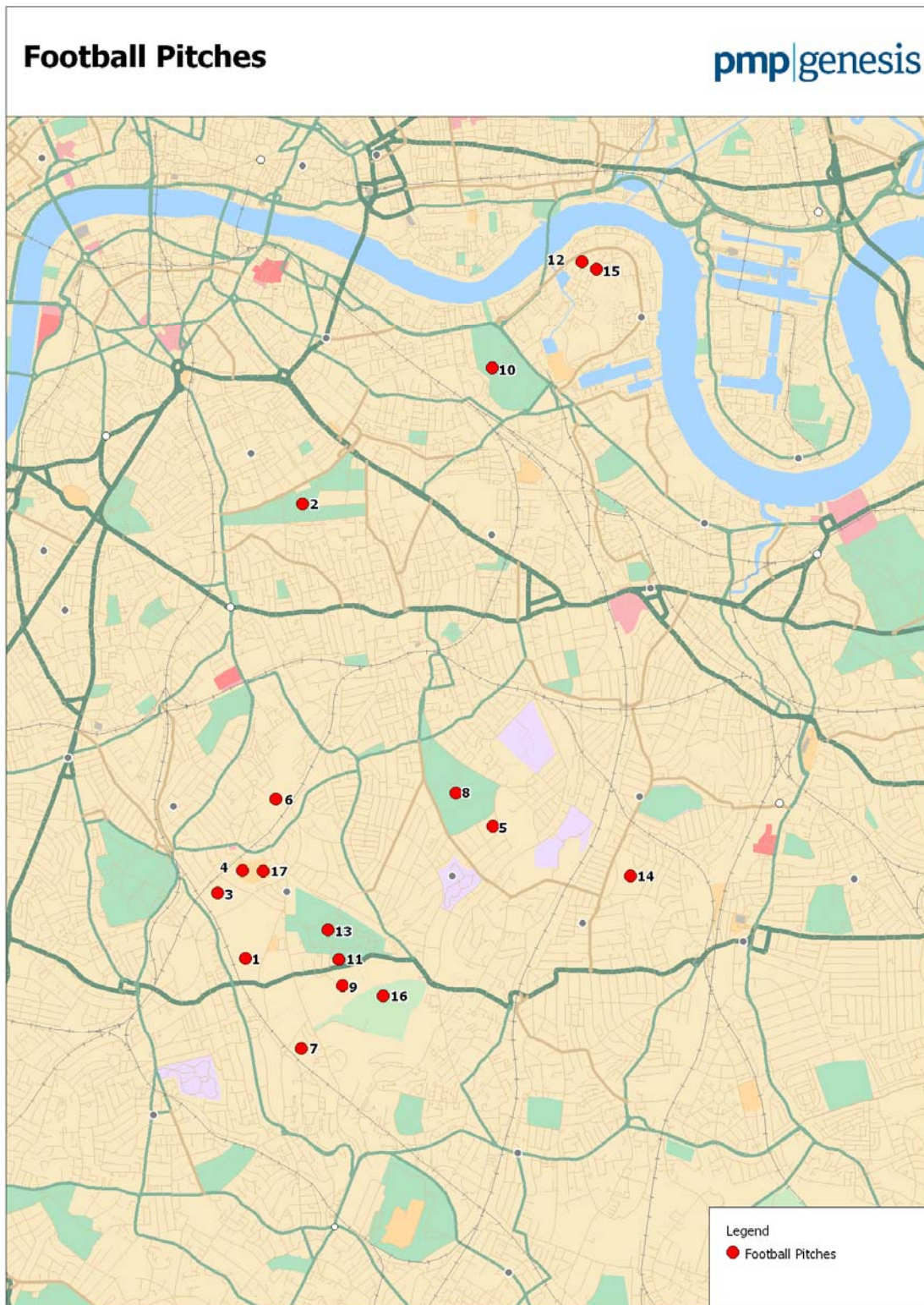
- 4.18 The location of the existing pitches in Southwark has been considered, using the locality areas outlined in Section 1.
- 4.19 Table 4.4 illustrates the area of playing pitches (in hectares) available for community use in each Community Council area and the proportion of the total pitches available.

Table 4.4 Distribution of pitches in Southwark

Community Council area	Total playing area (ha)	Total pitches with secured community use (%)	% of playing pitch area with secured community use
Borough & Bankside	0.60	0.60	100%
Camberwell	1.46	0.60	41.1%
Bermondsey	0	0	0%
Dulwich	88.56	60.96	68.8%
Nunhead & Peckham Rye	7.08	7.08	100%
Peckham	0	0	0%
Rotherhithe	9.50	9	94.7%
Walworth	5.42	5.42	100%
Total	112.62	83.66	74.3%

- 4.20 In total there are 112.62 hectares of playing pitches in Southwark, of which just under three-quarters (74.3%) is secured for community use.
- 4.21 The largest concentration of playing pitches is to be found in the south of the Borough, the most being in Dulwich Community Council area. However, because a large number of the pitches in this area are located on private education sites, only just over two-thirds (68.8%) are actually classified as having community access. There is no formal provision in Bermondsey and Peckham Community Council areas.
- 4.22 The distribution of pitches by locality area is set out in Appendix B. The locations of grass pitches across the borough are illustrated in Figures 4.1 - 4.3 on the following pages. The locations of the STPs and other small sided training areas are included later in the report

Figure 4.1 Map of football pitches in Southwark

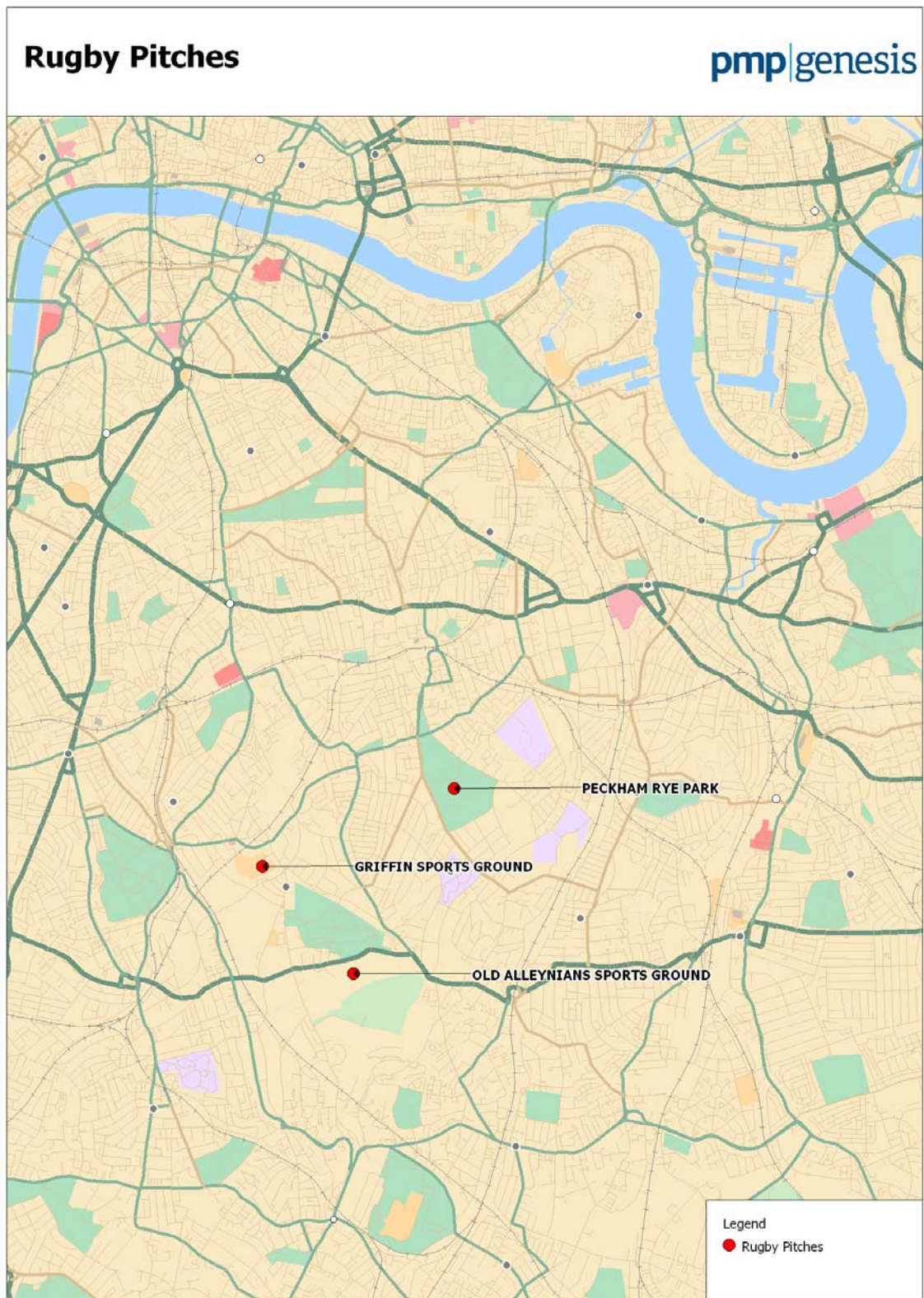


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ID	Site
1	Belair Park
2	Burgess Park
3	Edward Alleynians OB Club
4	Herne Hill Stadium
5	Homestall Road
6	James Allens Girls School
7	Mary Datchelor
8	Peckham Rye Park
9	Pynners Close Playing Fields
10	Southwark Park
11	Southwark Sports Ground
12	Surrey Docks Stadium
13	Dulwich Park
14	Honor Oak Park
15	Mellish Fields
16	Dulwich Sports Club
17	Griffin Sports Ground

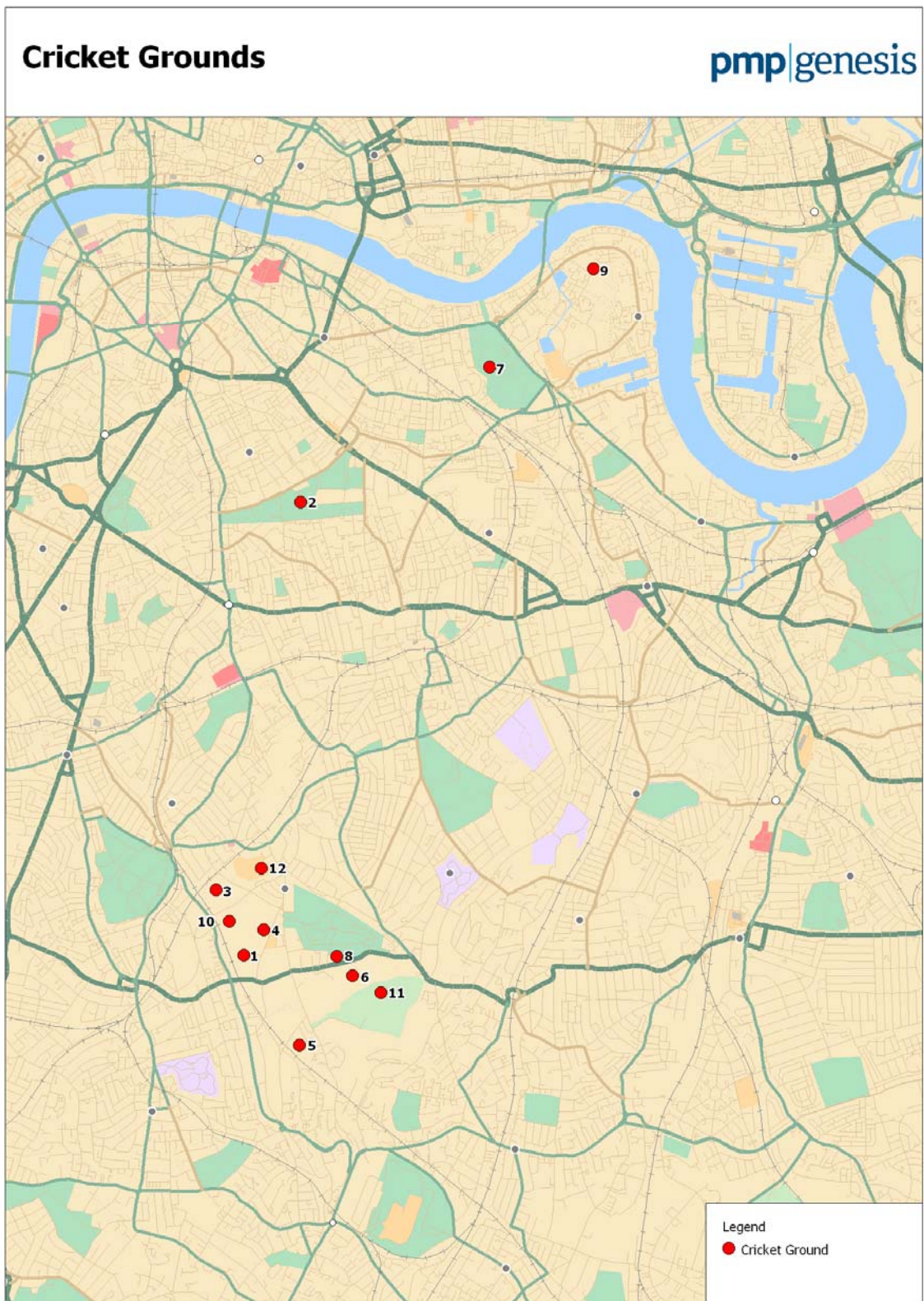
Figure 4.2 Map of rugby union pitches in Southwark



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Figure 4.3 Map of cricket pitches in Southwark



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ID	Site
1	Belair Park
2	Burgess Park
3	Edward Alleynians OB Club
4	Gallery Road
5	Mary Datchelor
6	Old Alleynians Sports Ground
7	Southwark Park
8	Southwark Sports Ground
9	Mellish Fields
10	Marlborough Cricket Club
11	Dulwich Sports Club
12	Griffin Sports Ground

Figure 4.4 Map of full-size STPs in Southwark



Ownership

- 4.23 Table 4.5 below illustrates the ownership of all pitches. It can be seen that the local authority is the largest overall provider across the borough followed by private education providers.

Table 4.5 Ownership of all playing pitches within Southwark

Ownership	Nr of adult football pitches	Nr of junior football pitches	Nr of mini football pitches	Nr of cricket pitches	Nr of adult rugby union pitches	Nr of junior rugby union pitches	Nr of adult rugby league pitches	Nr of junior rugby league pitches	Nr of adult grass hockey pitches	Nr of artificial turf pitches
Local Authority	22	5	5	13	4	2	0	0	0	3
LEA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Education	15	2	5	13	3	0	0	0	4	6
Parish Council	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Voluntary Sector	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Private/Corporate	8	1	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	45	8	10	33	7	2	0	0	4	9

- 4.24 One of the 3 local authority STPs is a 3G surface, which means that it cannot accommodate hockey matches.
- 4.25 A key challenge within the Borough is to try and secure increased community access to private education facilities. At present, for example, Dulwich College has some of the best quality pitches in Southwark, yet they are not made readily available to the community.

Quality of pitch and ancillary facilities

- 4.26 Pitch quality is a key issue. Perceived quality of pitches (and ancillary facilities) is almost as important as actual quality as the perceptions of users or potential users can easily be affected, changing usage patterns accordingly.
- 4.27 The quality of pitches in Southwark has been evaluated through site assessments undertaken by PMP, as well as through consultation with users and other interested parties.

Site assessments

- 4.28 The site assessments are designed to evaluate the degree to which specific sports pitches are fit for purpose. An assessment matrix was used to assess the overall site and the quality of the pitches and ancillary facilities where available.

- 4.29 As assessments were made during March to April, many cricket pitches were not in use and could therefore not be adequately assessed for quality. Assessments were only made for pitches that have some community access.
- 4.30 It is important to note that the assessments represent a snap shot in time and therefore any natural influences such as the weather may affect the quality of the pitches. Likewise, the time of the visits for cricket pitch assessments should be used to qualify any assessments made.
- 4.31 Site specific improvements will be covered in Section 6. Key issues emerging from site visits include:
- Several pitch sites do not have any changing facilities;
 - The quality of changing facilities was deemed to be average at the majority of sites where changing facilities were provided. However, there were very few sites which complied with modern design guidelines enabling participation by juniors and women at the same time as men's teams;
 - Not unsurprisingly the best quality pitches are located at private education sites where community access is limited;
 - Voluntary club and privately owned pitch sites generally appear to be better quality than public pitches;
 - Unofficial use of playing pitches in parks (eg Peckham Rye Park) is an issue and there is evidence of organised sessions being arranged which increase the wear and tear on the pitches;
 - Car parking facilities are insufficient at several sites with only street parking available. It is also important that the open spaces strategy identifies solutions to make sites more accessible by walking/cycle routes as part of a wider physically activity network (see open spaces strategy); and
 - There was evidence of overuse at several pitch sites eg stud damage to pitch surface, bare goal mouths etc.

Site facilities

- 4.32 The site assessment matrix rates both the overall facilities (changing rooms, parking, etc) as well as the pitches themselves. The percentage scores for the overall site are broken down as follows:
- Over 90% - excellent;
 - 60% to 89% - good;
 - 40% to 59% - average;
 - 30% to 39% - poor;
 - Less than 30% - very poor.
- 4.33 The following sites scored 90% or higher for quality of ancillary facilities:
- Burgess Park;
 - Dulwich Park;

- Gallery Road;
 - Griffin Sports Ground;
 - Herne Hill Stadium.
- 4.34 The following sites scored 60% or below – an indication of the facilities at the overall site being considered average or poor and require some investment:
- Homestall Road;
 - Southwark Sports Ground (currently undergoing refurbishment); and
 - Surrey Dock Sports Stadium.
- 4.35 The main reasons for the above sites scoring poorly are due to a lack of changing facilities and poor car parking.

Pitch Quality

- 4.36 The percentage scores for pitches are broken down as follows:
- Over 90% - excellent pitch;
 - 65% to 90% - good pitch;
 - 55% to 64% - average pitch;
 - 30% to 54% - below average pitch;
 - Less than 30% - poor pitch.
- 4.37 The ratings for the individual pitches at each site can be found the appendices. Table 4.6 summarises the ratings awarded to pitches across Southwark.

Table 4.6 Quality of playing pitches across Southwark

Quality of pitch	Proportion of pitches in this category (%)
Excellent	10%
Good	77%
Average	10%
Below average	3%
Poor	-

- 4.38 The overall results for pitch quality indicate that the majority of pitches in the borough are rated as good quality. 77% of pitches are rated as good and 30% below average. Only 3% of pitches were actually rated as being below average, which is unusual for local authority pitches (NB – it should be remembered that these pitches were assessed during the summer months when there are relatively good quality).

4.39 The sites with pitches scoring highest were:

- Edward Alleynians OB Club (93%);
- Dulwich College (87%);
- Griffin Sports Ground (88%);
- Herne Hill Stadium (88%);
- Marlborough Cricket Club (87%);
- Mary Datchelor (84%);
- South Bank University Ground (80%).

4.40 The community accessible pitches with the lowest scores were:

- St Pauls STP (59%);
- Dulwich College Sports Ground (55%);
- Greendale (53%);
- Pynners Road (58%).

4.41 Site specific issues raised on Council owned and managed pitches include:

- Homestall Road – pitches require urgent drainage work as many matches are cancelled during periods of inclement weather. In addition, the changing facility at the site is very poor with no running water – it is not fit for purpose;
- There are no goalposts on the two junior pitches at Southwark Park, and these have therefore not been booked out over the course of the last season
- St Pauls has a synthetic turf pitch which is in poor condition. It is currently leased to Bakers College, but this lease has recently expired. There is no management presence at the site;
- The athletics facility at Southwark Park is due to be upgraded in due course (subject to funding). However, the STP in the middle, which is currently sand-dressed, is reaching the end of its usable lifespan and needs to be upgraded or replaced. These facilities will be upgraded, subject to funding;
- The pitches at Southwark Park have poor drainage and require extensive work to ensure they remain playable all year around;
- Greendale is a site which is not currently being used and has fallen into disrepair. It is currently leased to Dulwich Hamlet FC. The site, however, is Metropolitan Open Land so there are likely to be planning constraints associated with it. It has also been used as sports facilities in the past so offers a potential opportunity to overcome any quantitative deficiencies in the Dulwich area if identified; and
- Belair Park does not have changing facilities and this reduces the quality of the site. However, there are plans to construct a new, £1m changing complex in the future.

- 4.42 There is a lot of informal use of the local authority sites due to their location within parks and this is not controlled at all.

Other issues

- 4.43 The method of booking pitches has been identified as an issue. It is felt that the booking system is antiquated and over-rigid and does not offer sufficient flexibility to users to maximise usage of the pitches on peak days. There is also no online booking procedure which would modernise the function.
- 4.44 Whilst a number of quality issues have been identified at sites, there is an all round perception that there is a lack of provision in the north of the Borough. This is supported through an analysis of pitch distribution, with the bulk of stock in the south of the Borough, particularly in and around Dulwich.

Demand

- 4.45 Table 4.7 below illustrates the clubs and teams for football, cricket, hockey and rugby union currently playing in Southwark. A team audit has been collated using a variety of different sources, including local knowledge, The FA's Local Area Data report, the Council's pitch booking records and through contact with private facility operators.

Table 4.7 – The spread of teams across Southwark

Sport	No. of Clubs	No. of Teams
Football	60	170
Cricket	7	50
Rugby union	4	27
Hockey	3	13
Total	74	267

(Data source – The FA Local Area Data Report, LBS Pitch Booking Records, Private site records)

- 4.46 There are 74 clubs based in Southwark, the majority of which have more than one team. The club structure is good with a number of clubs offering opportunities to progress through the age groups (ie mini, junior, senior level teams). The only sport that does not run junior teams is hockey.
- 4.47 Of the 267 teams currently playing within Southwark, nearly two-thirds (64%) are playing football. Of these 121 football teams, 40% (68) are adult teams. The remainder are junior or mini teams. This reflects national trends which indicates that participation in junior football is growing.
- 4.48 Participation in junior cricket is increasing nationally, however, only a third of cricket teams in Southwark are actually juniors. Four clubs offer junior cricket, these are Burgess Park Colts CC (one of the principle users of Council facilities), Dulwich CC, Streatham & Marlborough CC and Alleyn & Honor Oak CC.
- 4.49 There are four rugby union clubs in Southwark. These are Old Alleynians, Southwark Tigers, Southwark Lancers and Kings College Hospital.. Rugby participation is focused around these key clubs and the development opportunities these clubs offer. Residents living in all areas of the Borough therefore travel to the home venues of these clubs.
- 4.50 There are three hockey clubs in Southwark. None of these offer junior opportunities. All three clubs use private school facilities at Dulwich College, Alleyn's and James Allen Girls School.

- 4.51 There are a number of clubs which have teams spread across a variety of sites across the Borough. Whilst this is not ideal, the land pressures that go with an inner London Borough makes this scenario inevitable. The table overleaf highlights these clubs and the sites which they currently use.

Table 4.8 Clubs with teams playing at more than one site

Club	No. teams	Sites used
Southwark Carribb	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peckham Rye Park • Dulwich Park • Belair Park
PELO	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dulwich Park • Belair Park
All Stars South London	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belair Park • Honor Oak Park
Athenlay	13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homestall Road • Out of Borough site

- 4.52 This breakdown shows that the dominating club in the Borough is Southwark Carribb, which is spread across three different sites and has a large number of teams. It should be recognised that, for the purposes of the PPM, these teams will be allocated to different sites to spread the demand according to usage.

User perceptions

- 4.53 The key issues in terms of participation, facilities used, issues experienced by clubs and development opportunities are summarised in the tables below. The issues raised in local strategic documents relating directly to each sport are also highlighted in these tables

Table 4.9 Football issues

Issue	
Participation	<p>Football is the most popular team sport in terms of participation in Southwark with a total of 164 teams, excluding the professional sides. There is a overriding perception amongst particularly the junior clubs that a lack of pitches is stagnating the growth of mini and junior football</p> <p>The London FA reports that Southwark has seen a dramatic improvement in female youth 11v11 teams/players from 2007/08 to 2008/09 with the same being said about adult female 11v11 teams/players and mixed mini-soccer (although these forms of football had dropped in the 2007/08 season). Adult male 11v11 teams/players have dropped considerably over the 3 terms, with youth male 11v11 teams/players enjoying satisfactory increases.</p> <p>One of the main focuses for the County FA is the decline in adult 11-a-side football. It will be seeking to meet with the Council to understand the reasons for this drop-off. However, PMP's wider work would suggest that this is a national trend and in part can be attributed to changes in society which means that traditional, Sunday morning football no longer 'fits' with modern lifestyles. This</p>

Issue	
	<p>explains the growth of small-sided, commercial football centres/leagues, which can offer regulation-free, midweek football which complements lifestyles much better.</p> <p>In terms of pitch need this means a decline in demand for senior football pitches and, along with the identified increase in junior/mini versions of the sport, suggest that more mini and junior pitches should be provided. However, this is not the case in Southwark where there are 45 senior football pitches along with 8 junior and 10 dedicated mini pitches.</p> <p>The popularity of small-sided, commercial leagues/facilities is prevalent in Southwark. For example, Top Corner operates small-sided leagues at Mellish Fields. Other recent investment has gone into Geraldine Mary Harnsworth, where three small-sided STPs have been constructed. The Football Foundation has also agreed to fund a new small-sided facility at Peckham Pulse which will also offer floodlit, small-sided opportunities. These new facilities, aligned with a decline in quality of Council-run facilities across a number of years, go some way to explaining the decline in adult football.</p>
'Versions' of football	<p>As identified above, over the last few years mini-soccer has been the largest growing version of football in the country. More recently the FA has piloted the concept of 9v9 football, which bridges the progression gap between mini-soccer and full, 11-a-side football. It is likely that this version of the game will be rolled out across the country. This places a reliance on local authorities to ensure a sufficient range of pitches are therefore available.</p> <p>In Southwark there are 24 mini-soccer teams but only eight (identified) mini-soccer pitches available for community use. Some mini-soccer matches are therefore being played across existing senior and junior pitches, which is not ideal for both the long-term quality of the pitch, nor player development. However, it should be recognised that the flexible nature of mini-soccer, which uses portable goalposts and often cones to mark out the pitch perimeter, does allow flexibility.</p> <p>There are no 9v9 pitches in the Borough at present, despite many of the teams are playing this version of the game. Teams are forced to travel to sites in neighbouring authorities (eg the London Marathon Ground in Redbridge) to access 9v9 pitches.</p>
Standard of play and time slots	<p>There are a variety of leagues which cover the teams in Southwark. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • London Saturday Youth Football League – plays Saturday mornings • Tandridge Junior Football League – main matchdays is Sunday between 10am and 3pm • South East London & Kent Youth League – plays Sundays • Southern Amateur League – play on Saturday afternoons • Metropolitan Sunday Football League – Sunday mornings • Bexley & District Junior (and Mini-Soccer) League – Sunday mornings. <p>As can be seen, the peak demand day for pitches is Sundays. This places a demand for pitches on one day of the week when at other times pitches are available for hire. For example, according to Council booking records for the 2008-9 season, only one club uses Peckham Rye Park pitches on Saturdays, the</p>

Issue	
	remainder are not hired out. This is similar at Southwark Park where none of the pitches are regularly hired on a Saturday.
Facilities used	The majority of football pitches are located on local authority sites. Overall, the pitches themselves are good quality. The majority of feedback concerned the poor quality or lack of changing facilities.

Table 4.10 Cricket issues

Issue	
Lack of winter, indoor training	<p>Clubs consulted have identified a lack of indoor cricket nets in Southwark. Streatham & Marlborough Cricket Club have plans to build a new pavilion facility with cricket nets, although it could not identify sufficient match funding to realise the project.</p> <p>The ECB recognises the opportunities available through the SSF process, to increase the number of cricket related facilities, particularly for training purposes, available to local clubs.</p>
Distribution of teams	<p>There is a strong distribution of clubs and teams in the southern part of the Borough, mainly due to the greater availability of open land. For example the three principal clubs in Southwark, namely Dulwich CC, Streatham & Marlborough CC and Alleyn & Honour Oak CC, are located in Village and College wards. This is a concern for the ECB in terms of club development.</p> <p>The ECB aims to increase participation in the north of the Borough, with a particular focus on Burgess Park and the other recreational/park sites.</p>
Facilities	<p>The majority of cricket clubs have private grounds which are well maintained and meet local league requirements.</p> <p>The main focus for facility development is qualitative improvements to existing provision rather than a need for any additional pitches. In particular the following facility needs were highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New pavilion facility at Streatham & Marlborough CC – the facility is poor quality and the club is actively developing a project to upgrade it; • Improvement to pitches at Burgess Park, including better winter preparation and specialist ongoing maintenance; • Changing facilities at Burgess Park – the perception is that these are poor quality.

Table 4.11 Rugby union issues

Issue	
Facilities used	<p>The majority of rugby union takes place at privately managed facilities where the facility quality cannot be controlled by the local authority. The pitches at Old Alleynians Sports Ground have been identified as good quality, although it is recognised that some improvement to the drainage and better ongoing maintenance could improve them further.</p> <p>The quality of the pitch at Burgess Park is also good, and is well maintained. However, the level of use by Southwark Tigers suggests that there is a need for additional pitches to accommodate the number of players that attend training sessions each week – these players are too young to actually play competitive matches (and therefore, in the context of this study, recognised demand) but it is important that this participation is actually recognised and catered for through provision of the necessary facilities. Southwark Tigers have also expressed an aspiration to relocate their current clubhouse to a purpose-built facility closer to the pitch.</p>

Table 4.12 Hockey issues

Issue	
Facilities used	<p>The three hockey clubs in Southwark all use STPs at private schools. Alleyn Old Boys use Alleyn’s School whilst Tulse Hill Men and Women’s Hockey Club use Dulwich College and James Allens Girls School respectively. All the facilities are good quality and, due to the limited amount of community use at these sites, can gain sufficient access to maintain the current number of teams, and extend them should the need arise.</p> <p>When considering new STP facilities, the needs of the hockey clubs, along with a target of increasing junior participation (see below) should be taken into account. Newly developed, third generation turf pitches cannot be used for hockey. New STPs should not therefore necessarily be third generation turf, the retention and future improvement of sand facilities are equally as important.</p>
Participation	<p>There is no identified junior hockey taking place in the Borough. However, inter-school matches do take place on a regular basis, although these are between the private schools. The absence of school participation is explained by a lack of on-site STP provision, which limits what can be delivered both during curriculum and extra-curricular time.</p>

Summary

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

- The ratio of pitches to adult population is 1 to 2,090. This does not compare favourably with the national figure and indicates that the supply of pitches in Southwark is lower than the national average. However, comparison with other inner London boroughs shows that Southwark is broadly in line with inner-London averages – ***suggests supply of pitches is adequate;***
- The proportion of the overall pitch stock that is available for community use (77%) is relatively high in comparison to the majority of known local authorities. However, it should be recognised that most schools do not have on-site outdoor provision. Those institutions without community use actually have some of the best quality pitches (eg Dulwich College) – ***any undersupply issues could be partly overcome by negotiating controlled community use of independent schools' facilities;***
- The largest concentration of pitches are in Dulwich Community Council area, although only two-thirds of this has secured community access. Pitch distribution is particularly low in the northern community council areas, in particular Borough & Bankside and Bermondsey – ***poor distribution will increase need for residents to travel to participate;***
- The local authority owns around half of the total pitch provision in the Borough, in particular for football pitches. The remainder is mostly owned by private education establishments. The importance of accessing these sites could be key to overcoming some of the strategic issues with pitch undersupply;
- Site visits revealed that just over three-quarters of pitches in the Borough were rated as 'good'. However, several local authority sites fall below this quality benchmark, including Cossall Park, St Pauls STP, Greendale and Pynners Road – ***poor quality pitches/sites requiring attention;***
- Informal use of parks pitches, often by organised training/coaching sessions, is detrimental to the quality of pitches. More effective management is required to overcome this – ***informal use of parks pitches detrimental to ongoing quality;***
- The pitch booking system is not sufficiently flexible to maximise usage of the current pitch stock. For example, pitches can only be allocated twice a day, in the morning and afternoon, whereas for some junior matches only take an hour to complete, meaning that more matches could be accommodated, therefore meeting more demand – ***more flexibility of pitch bookings required;***
- A number of well established clubs have teams spread across a number of sites. Whilst this is not ideal from a club development perspective, the absence of large, multi-pitch sites in inner London means that 'one site – one club' is simply not possible to deliver – ***clubs spread over sites is a necessity due to the lack of green space in inner London;***
- Changing provision is considered good at a number of local authority sites, including Burgess Park, Gallery Road, Mary Datchelor and Dulwich Park – ***good quality ancillary accommodation;***
- A number of sites have poor quality changing provision, including Homestall Road, Southwark Sports Ground and Surrey Dock Sports Stadium. There are also local authority sites which do not have ancillary provision, including Belair Park and Cossall Park – ***poor quality/lack of changing provision at certain pitch sites;***

- Sports development initiatives are aiming to increase participation in the borough in all sports. In particular, it is expected that more young people and females will become involved in sport. This will place greater emphasis on ensuring segregated changing provision is provided to support such initiatives – ***segregated, and good quality changing provision is important to deliver sports development initiatives;***
- Another sports development initiative involves the growth in ‘mini’ sports, both in football and rugby union. This could require re-designation of some pitches to better provide for these versions of the sport in a controlled environment – ***increase in mini football/rugby union requires more dedicated pitch supply; and***
- There is a need to ensure that more capacity is built in to the existing pitch stock to allow for increases in participation and to allow fallow periods for rest and recovery.

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

5. Methodology Findings

05

- 5.1 This section explores the findings arising from the application of the playing pitch methodology.
- 5.2 As detailed in Section 3, the Playing Pitch Methodology (PPM) comprises eight stages. Stages 1 to 6 involve numerical calculations, whilst Stages 7 and 8 develop issues and solutions. The methodology is employed to analyse the adequacy of current provision and to assess possible future situations, in order that latent and future demand (identified through Team Generation Rates), and the problems with quality, use and capacity of existing pitches can be taken into account. The increase in population is considered by modelling a future year scenario – in this case, 2026. Potential changes to the pitch stock over that time are also taken into consideration.
- 5.3 It is implicit to the methodology that each sport is dealt with individually with a specific set of calculations for each because, despite some superficial similarities, they exhibit very different patterns of play.
- 5.4 We have further subdivided the analysis of some sports to deal with specific sub-sectors of activity within them, eg junior play or adult play, in order that important aspects are not submerged in aggregated data. Football has been subdivided in this manner, whereas no differentiation has been made between junior and senior cricket and junior and senior rugby teams as they play on pitches of similar dimensions.
- 5.5 As the playing pitch strategy is a peak day model, we have determined on which day teams/leagues wish to play their fixtures, as well as the peak time (AM or PM). The methodology also considers the ability of pitches to sustain play on the peak day and at the peak time. In Southwark, the majority of adult football teams play on a Sunday, meaning that demand at that time is particularly high.

Carrying capacity

- 5.6 The methodology set out in 'Towards A Level Playing Field' encourages local authorities to take into account carrying capacity (ie the number of games that pitches are adequately able to sustain per week) when calculating the playing pitch methodology.
- 5.7 There is no formula for calculating the carrying capacity of pitches, as it is dependent on a wide range of factors such as weather conditions, age/weight of users, quality of players etc. However, through local knowledge, user surveys, site visits, interviews and an analysis of usage patterns from the previous season, it is possible to estimate the approximate capacity of each pitch.
- 5.8 In calculating the carrying capacity of a pitch, the following are considered:
- What proportion of games are cancelled on the pitch due to poor pitch condition?
 - Is the condition of the pitch declining over the season?
 - What is the maintenance regime for the pitch at present?
 - Could the capacity of the pitch be improved by enhanced maintenance?
 - To what extent are pitches required to accommodate training activity?

- 5.9 In addition to considering the degree to which pitches meet existing demand, it is important to take into account the long-term life of pitches. The importance of rest and recovery of pitches should not be underestimated in order to maintain pitch quality and to prevent the longer-term deterioration as a result of constant use.
- 5.10 The weighting system used to account for the carrying capacity of pitches and the resulting audits is outlined in Table 5.1. The standard PPM assumes that pitches are able to accommodate two games per week. However, if a pitch is of particularly good quality, it may be able to accommodate more than two matches per week, hence a higher weighting. If, on the other hand, the pitch in question is only able to accommodate one match, it is equivalent to half a pitch.
- 5.11 Increasing the quality of a pitch could therefore increase the capacity of a pitch and reduce the overall number of facilities required. Qualitative improvements are therefore likely to be as important as the provision of additional pitches.

Table 5.1 Carrying capacity for each type of pitch

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

- 5.12 Decisions regarding the carrying capacity of pitches were based on the scores achieved during site assessments as well as information gathered during consultation.
- 5.13 Pitches identified as being able to carry three matches per week in Southwark are generally privately maintained, either at private schools/colleges or at clubs. These pitches have full time ground staff and are therefore able to accommodate more wear and tear than local authority pitches.
- 5.14 All pitches of poor quality have been given a multiplication factor of 0.5, assuming that the quality is only suitable to take one match per week. There are also local authority sites which are used by schools for curriculum purposes. These sites have been given a multiplication factor of 0.5 to take account of school usage and the impact that will have on pitch quality.
- 5.15 In light of lower levels of wear and tear generated by young players, and the short duration of matches, mini football teams are considered able to sustain three or four games per week without detrimental impact on the pitches.
- 5.16 Synthetic hockey pitches are not affected by the conditions discussed above as wear and tear on these pitches does not occur to the same degree as grass. These pitches have therefore been considered able to take four games on the peak day, although this is dependent on flexible programming of matches to ensure this is feasible. Grass hockey pitches are no longer used for competitive senior matches and have therefore been excluded.
- 5.17 Table 5.2 overleaf shows the calculations undertaken to determine the surplus/deficit of pitches in Southwark.

Table 5.2 PPM calculations

		Football	Mini-soccer	Cricket	Rugby Union	Rugby League	Hockey		
STAGE ONE		Adult	72	27	33	7	0	13	
Identifying teams		Junior	71		17	20	0	0	
STAGE TWO		Adult	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.5	
Calculate home games per week		Junior	0.5		0.7	0.5	0.5	0.5	
STAGE THREE (S1x S2)		Adult	36	14	23	4	0	7	
Assessing total home games per week		Junior	36		12	10	0	0	
STAGE FOUR Establish temporal demand for pitches	Saturday AM	Adult	0%	40%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
		Junior	10%		0%	0%	0%	0%	
	Saturday PM	Adult	15%	0%	75%	100%	100%	100%	
		Junior	0%		0%	0%	0%	0%	
	Sunday AM	Adult	60%	60%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
		Junior	60%		50%	100%	100%	0%	
	Sunday PM	Adult	10%	0%	20%	0%	0%	0%	
		Junior	30%		0%	0%	0%	0%	
	Mid week 1- Specify day	Adult	15%	0%	5%	0%	0%	0%	
		Junior	0%		50%	0%	0%	100%	
	Mid week 2- Specify day	Adult	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
		Junior	0%		0%	0%	0%	0%	
	STAGE FIVE (S3 x S4) Defining pitches used each day	Saturday AM	Adult	0	5	0	0	0	0
			Junior	4		0	0	0	0
Saturday PM		Adult	5	0	17	4	0	7	
		Junior	0		0	0	0	0	
Sunday AM		Adult	22	8	0	0	0	0	
		Junior	21		6	10	0	0	
Sunday PM		Adult	4	0	5	0	0	0	
		Junior	11		0	0	0	0	
Mid week 1- Specify day		Adult	5	0	1	0	0	0	
		Junior	0		6	0	0	0	
Mid week 2- Specify day		Adult	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Junior	0		0	0	0	0	
STAGE SIX		Adult	34	6	25	4	0	14	
Establishing pitches currently available		Junior	6			1	0		
STAGE SEVEN (S6-S5) Identifying shortfall (-) and surplus (+)	Saturday AM	Adult	34.0	0.6	24.5	3.5	0.0	14.0	
		Junior	2.0			1.0	0.0		
	Saturday PM	Adult	28.6	6.0	7.2	0.0	0.0	7.5	
		Junior	5.5			1.0	0.0		
	Sunday AM	Adult	12.4	-2.1	18.6	3.5	0.0	14.0	
		Junior	-15.8			-9.0	0.0		
	Sunday PM	Adult	30.4	6.0	19.9	3.5	0.0	14.0	
		Junior	-5.2			1.0	0.0		
	Mid week 1- Specify day	Adult	28.6	6.0	17.4	3.5	0.0	14.0	
		Junior	5.5			1.0	0.0		
	Mid week 2- Specify day	Adult	34.0	6.0	24.5	3.5	0.0	14.0	
		Junior	5.5			1.0	0.0		

- 5.18 As per PPM guidance, it is assumed that all football and rugby teams play a home match every fortnight. However, for cricket teams it is assumed that many teams play home matches more than every fortnight (ie mid-week matches, ground hire to work teams etc), hence the figure of 0.7.
- 5.19 Data has been determined by a combination of questionnaire responses, telephone interviews and discussions with league secretaries. Figures are approximate and it is acknowledged that these may change weekly.
- 5.20 The figures highlighted in green represent the peak-day demand. Pitch shortfalls are shown to one decimal place; however, we have also shown the whole number of additional pitches required in brackets, which is a 'rounding up' of the numerical shortfall. This is because a shortfall of, say, half a pitch actually needs one pitch to remedy it.
- 5.21 Key issues arising from the PPM calculations (Table 5.2) are:
- There is **more than enough senior football pitches** (12.4, or 13) on the peak day time (Sunday AM) to cater for demand;
 - There is a **significant undersupply of junior football pitches** at peak time (Sunday AM) of 15.8 (16) pitches;
 - This means that, in total, Southwark has an undersupply of football pitches on the peak day;
 - Mini football usage is also a Sunday morning activity. **There is currently a shortfall of three mini soccer pitches** (2.1) in the Borough on the peak day;
 - **There is more than sufficient supply of cricket pitches** at peak time (Saturday PM);
 - **The supply of senior rugby union pitches is exactly sufficient to meet current demand** (neither a surplus nor shortfall on peak day – Saturday PM); and
 - However, **this needs to be aligned with a shortfall of nine junior rugby union pitches on the peak day** (Sunday AM). There is, therefore, an overall shortfall of rugby union pitches and it appears that junior rugby is currently being played on senior pitches to satisfy demand.
- 5.22 These results are based on the assumption that teams wish to play on pitches which meet the national governing body of sport recommendations for their age category. However, we are aware that in Southwark, some junior football teams (particularly those at U15 and U16 age groups) play on senior sized pitches. Therefore, the Council should be aware of the age of clubs playing on certain sites and engage in consultation with clubs prior to implementing any re-designation recommendations emerging from this report.
- 5.23 This trend can be taken into account by amalgamating the total supply of adult and junior pitches on the peak day (Sunday AM). The result is an undersupply of 3.4 (4) football pitches in Southwark, which means that overall supply is not able to meet current levels of demand in the sport.
- 5.24 The figures in Table 5.2 take into account the carrying capacity of pitches and some football pitches have been considered able to sustain less than two games per week (the optimum). This is principally because schools make use of community pitches because they do not have their own on-site facilities.
- 5.25 Hypothetically if there was no school usage of community pitches then the aforementioned undersupply would be reduced to a deficit of 0.4 pitches, which practically equates to a deficit of one pitch. It should be examined whether schools actually need to hire existing community pitches

or whether an agreement can be reached which allocates alternative green space for curriculum use (other than for competitive pitch sports fixtures of course).

- 5.26 Dulwich College and Alleyn's are two facilities which do not open their pitches for community use. As previously referenced, these sites do not fall under the definition of secured community use and have therefore been excluded from the calculations. A priority for increasing the pitch stock in the Borough should be to work with private schools to try and secure increased community access to these pitches by community clubs. When including these pitches within an alternative scenario the PPM calculations would be as follows:
- There would be sufficient football pitch provision on the peak day (Sunday AM) to accommodate all current senior and junior play; and
 - There would be a surplus of one mini-soccer pitch.
- 5.27 Negotiating access to these sites for the community could therefore be one possible strategic objective going forward. This will be examined in more depth in the next section.

Analysing provision in Southwark in more detail

- 5.28 Analysing pitch provision in Southwark as a whole disguises the patterns of supply and demand within different geographical areas. This is important to consider in a borough like Southwark, which has a clear north/south divide in terms of availability of green space and sports facilities.
- 5.29 For pitch sports there is an accepted need for players to travel to games. Despite this, consideration of local needs as part of Open Space Strategy's household survey indicated that residents expect to find outdoor sports facilities within a 15 minute walk time from their home. This reinforces the expectation that facilities are relatively local to residential areas and highlights the difficulties associated with travelling in inner London boroughs.
- 5.30 Although valuable, analysis on a borough-wide basis implies (perhaps wrongly) that all residents are willing and able to travel to pitches. Consideration has therefore been given to supply and demand at a local level. Local access or effective public transport networks are vital in particular for junior pitches, as players are unable to travel to matches themselves.
- 5.31 The adequacy of provision firstly in the eight community council areas is therefore set out below. Recommendations, solutions and a strategy for the future delivery of pitch provision across Southwark are discussed in the next section.
- 5.32 Table 5.3 reveals the shortfall/surplus by each area. Negative numbers indicate a shortfall of provision and are highlighted in red whereas surpluses are shown in black.
- 5.33 Demand has been classified according to the home ground at which a club plays. This means that consideration of the table in isolation may disguise areas of shortfall arising as a result of 'invisible need' ie areas where there are no pitches but demand is present. This will be returned to later in this section.

Table 5.3 Summary of PPM results by area

Community Council area	Shortfall/surplus of adult football	Shortfall/surplus of junior football	Shortfall/surplus of Mini-soccer	Shortfall/surplus of cricket	Shortfall/surplus of adult rugby union	Shortfall/surplus of junior rugby union	Total pitches
Borough & Bankside	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0
Camberwell	-0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.9
Bermondsey	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Dulwich	21.5	0.9	2.0	6.3	0.0	-6.5	21.6
Nunhead & Peckham Rye	2.7	0.5	-0.8	0.0	0.5	0.0	2.9
Peckham	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Rotherhithe	4.5	0.6	-0.6	2.0	0.0	0.0	10.5
Walworth	0.0	0.0	0.0	-1.1	-0.5	-2.5	-2.1
	28.6	2.0	0.6	7.2	0.0	-9.0	

5.34 Analysis of the information presented in Table 5.3 suggests that:

- There is a slight undersupply of adult football pitches in the Camberwell area. However, this is not significant;
- In Nunhead & Peckham Rye and Rotherhithe there is a shortfall of mini-soccer pitches, which suggests that the current designation of pitches in those areas is not in keeping with the needs of clubs;
- There is a locational shortfall of cricket pitches in Walworth. However, there is an overall surplus of pitches across the Borough as a whole;
- The number of senior rugby union pitches meets current levels of demand, although once again there is a shortfall in Walworth Community Council area; and
- There is a significant shortfall of junior rugby union pitches in Dulwich and Walworth. Additional pitches are likely to be required in this area.

Predicting the future

Team Generation Rates

- 5.35 Team Generation Rates (TGRs) indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team. TGRs are derived by dividing the appropriate population age band in the area by the number of teams playing within that area in that age band. Calculating TGRs enables fair comparison of participation to be made between different areas where similar studies have been undertaken.
- 5.36 TGRs can be calculated for each of the individual disciplines, eg adult men's football, adult women's football, mini-soccer. Once these TGRs have been calculated, they can be brought together to form one TGR for each sport.
- 5.37 The TGRs for football, rugby union, cricket and hockey in Southwark are shown overleaf, and are compared to the national average based on the Sport England database of Playing Pitch Strategy information.
- 5.38 The following examples help clarify what TGRs mean:

1:100 people	→	high TGR	→	relatively low latent (unmet) demand
1:1000 people	→	low TGR	→	relatively high latent (unmet) demand

- 5.39 These figures are only a guide and do not specify the sport or refer to local conditions. For example, the national popularity of football will mean that it will almost always have the highest TGR. Equally, hockey usually has the lowest. Therefore, it is more useful to compare Southwark TGRs with other areas.

Table 5.6 Football Team Generation Rates

Age group	Southwark TGR	National average
Senior male	1:1,028	1:314
Senior female	1:16,785	1:10,593
Junior male	1:131	1:71
Junior female	1:2,862	1:818
Mini soccer	1:484	1:141

- 5.40 Table 5.6 indicates that the number of people required across each age group to generate a team is higher than the national average. However, it is closer to the national average at junior and mini soccer level, and development focus should be placed on ensuring effective progression pathways are in place to ensure these players continue to participate in the senior game. Overall, the TGRs in football suggest that demand is lower than the national average.

Table 5.7 Cricket Team Generation Rates

Age group	Southwark TGR	National average
Senior male	1:2,464	1:1,333
Senior female	1:75,560	1:72,518
Junior male	1:604	1:1,481
Junior female	1:2,862	1:15,926

- 5.41 Table 5.7 shows that the population required to generate one senior male team is higher than the national average at senior male and female levels. However, participation at junior level is good, with both junior male and junior female TGRs significantly above the national average.

Table 5.8 Rugby Union Team Generation Rates

Age group	Southwark TGR	National average
Senior male	1:9,579	1:10,315
Senior female	-	1:43,770
Junior male	1:453	1:1,864
Junior female	1:2,719	1:19,529

- 5.42 Across all levels of rugby union, the population required to generate one team for both senior and junior rugby is slightly lower than the national averages. This suggests that participation levels in rugby are high in Southwark, although a focus should be placed on developing the women's game.

Table 5.9 Hockey Team Generation Rates

Age group	Southwark TGR	National average
Senior male	1:8,735	1:7,595
Senior female	1:13,428	1:10,292
Junior male	-	1:4,239
Junior female	-	1:5,115

5.43 Table 5.9 indicates that the populations required to generate one male team at senior level is slightly higher than the national average. This highlights a lower demand for senior male hockey in the area compared to the national average. The TGR figures for female hockey also show lower levels of demand than the national average.

Football conversion rate modelling

5.44 Over recent years The Football Association (FA), together with the County FAs and Local Football Partnerships, has been developing a robust system to measure accurately levels of affiliated football participation across the country. This system, known as CAS (County Administration System) produced the first set of data for the season 2005/06. The system tracks how many people are taking part in affiliated football throughout the country and can be analysed down to a local authority level.

5.45 The data collected by the FA enables accurate benchmarking across the country and has been used to provide an indication of participation in Southwark compared to other similar boroughs, and also as a means of determining latent demand. They provide a more up to date comparison than TGRs.

5.46 The FA data measures participation in terms of conversion rates. Conversion rates are defined as the percentage of the relevant population actively playing affiliated football (they are therefore different to TGRs).

5.47 Conversion rates are calculated by dividing the number of teams by an assumed number of players per team (eg 15 players per 11-a-side team). This gives a figure for the total number of players and is then divided by the relevant population to provide the percentage of affiliated players within that relevant population.

5.48 The key points relating to the conversation rates for Southwark are outlined below:

- Senior male participation equals 2.1% of the total adult male population. This is less than half of the national average (5%) and is also less than the London average (3.5%). Reversing the drop-off in senior male participation is a key focus for the London FA;
- Youth male participation (16.2%) is also lower than the national (23.9%) and London (18.3%) averages;
- Mini-soccer participation (2.9%) is also below the national (8.9%) and London (4.3%) averages. However, this area of the sport is growing in Southwark; and
- Surprisingly, small-sided football participation is also low, but it is recognised that there is significant opportunities for this type of football in the Borough

- 5.49 It should be recognised that comparison to the national average is not a particularly valid comparator and participation levels should be benchmarked against the London average, with denser population demographics.
- 5.50 This conversation rate information does broadly support the TGR findings from the PPM analysis.

Projections for 2026

- 5.51 By applying TGRs to population projections for 2026, we can project the theoretical number of teams that would be generated over the LDF period and gain an understanding of the adequacy of current pitch provision to meet future demand.
- 5.52 In addition to considering the impact of the projected population increases, Table 5.10 also considers the impact of increased participation (estimated at a rate 5% for all sports).

Table 5.10 Summary of PPM results by locality area for 2026

Sub-area name	Shortfall/surplus of adult football	Shortfall/surplus of junior football	Shortfall/surplus of Mini-soccer	Shortfall/surplus of cricket	Shortfall/surplus of adult rugby union	Shortfall/surplus of junior rugby union	Shortfall/surplus of hockey	Total pitches
Borough & Bankside	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	2.0
Camberwell	-0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	1.8
Bermondsey	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Dulwich	22.0	1.1	2.2	7.7	0.4	-5.6	-2.0	25.8
Nunhead & Peckham Rye	2.6	0.3	-1.3	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	2.2
Peckham	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Rotherhithe	4.5	0.4	-0.8	2.0	0.0	0.0	4.0	10.1
Walworth	-0.8	0.0	0.0	-2.5	-0.9	-5.6	2.0	-7.8
	28.2	1.8	0.1	7.3	-0.0	-11.2	8.0	

NB columns may not sum exactly due to rounding

- 5.53 Table 5.10 indicates that, as expected, the demand for pitches in the borough will grow by the year 2026. Specifically, pressure on junior rugby union pitches will increase with the shortfall of pitches increasing from 9 (current) to 11.2 (2026). The overall shortfall of pitches will increase the most in Dulwich.
- 5.54 Table 5.10 has assumed that the structure of the population remains the same. While it is difficult to project ahead accurately, in all likelihood, by 2026 there will be a larger total older population (aged around 50+).
- 5.55 This changing population structure may impact on the demand for certain pitch sports, although this change will happen gradually. It is important for pitch providers to be aware of these changing demographics and be prepared and able to respond.

- 5.56 These changes will also be influenced by housing projections and additional developments in the borough which affect the growth of the population. Any new, large scale housing developments have been taken into account in the population projections.
- 5.57 The greatest increases in population are towards the north of the Borough, in Cathedrals, Chaucer and Grange wards. Ironically, these are the areas with lower levels of pitch provision at present. There is projected to be a slight decrease in population towards the south of the Borough, meaning that demand for pitches in those areas is likely to remain stagnant.
- 5.58 There are a number of 'unknown factors' which could affect the demand for pitches, which cannot be foreseen at this stage. These include:
- The impact of the 2012 Olympics – this may stimulate higher demand for sport;
 - Changing popularity of sports – this is often linked to the success of national teams or the popularity of Twenty20 cricket, for example;
 - Changing versions of sports. For example, smaller sided versions of football are gaining in popularity compared with traditional 11-a-side adult football;
 - Impact of the emphasis on alternative physical activities rather than formal sports;
 - The reduced financial income of clubs due the current economic climate; and
 - The impact of local investment in facilities.

Mini sports

- 5.59 The popularity of mini sports (both rugby and football) must also be taken into consideration when assessing the level of under/oversupply in Southwark. Participation in mini soccer is growing rapidly both nationally and locally and demand for pitches is therefore likely to continue to increase.
- 5.60 Mini soccer is popular in Southwark, with 27 mini soccer teams in the borough, equivalent to 15% of the total number of football teams in Southwark. There are also three mini rugby teams in the borough, although this does not take into account the large 'mini' training sessions which clubs host on a non-competitive level. In reality, therefore, there are more mini-rugby players than acknowledged in this study.
- 5.61 A growth in the numbers of participants at a young age may also generate increased levels of participation in junior and senior sports in future years.
- 5.62 The key issues for future pitch provision from this growth are:
- The high growth in mini soccer is likely to place further demand on existing facilities. Although there is projected to be sufficient provision to meet this demand, there may be a requirement to provide a central venue dedicated to mini soccer. Similar growth in junior football is also likely to generate further shortfalls of junior pitch provision;
 - Shortages of junior rugby pitches are likely to rise in light of participation increases. Junior rugby development will have to be monitored to ensure pitch supply meets demand; and
 - As the majority of growth in participation in all sports is at junior level, this may result in increases in participation at adult level in future years.

The role of synthetic pitches and training provision

- 5.63 Common problems with pitch provision are often related to a lack of training/practice facilities. If players are to improve and clubs develop, they require access to training facilities as well as match pitches. Training on match pitches can degrade the quality of the playing surface. The use of match pitches for training is a particular problem on parks pitches.
- 5.64 Difficulties in accessing pitches for training was highlighted as a key issue by the majority of football clubs that responded to the survey. It was also highlighted as a key issue during the workshop event.
- 5.65 Artificial surfaces provide more consistent playing and practice conditions than grass and function as both competition and training venues. The development of synthetic turf pitches (STPs) has fundamentally changed the way hockey matches are played, and frequently games can only be accommodated by sequential programming on match days. In time, the development of third generation STPs for football is likely to have a similar effect.
- 5.66 There are currently nine full size STP pitches in Southwark, three of which are located on school sites and are not readily accessible to the community. As previously identified there are also a number of small-sided synthetic pitches which are used for hosting small-sided leagues.
- 5.67 Up to this point, analysis of the demand for synthetic pitches has focused primarily on demand arising from hockey teams. This shows that supply is adequate to meet demand. However, the demand for synthetic turf pitches from within the community cannot be accurately quantified. As a minimum, it is recommended that current levels of provision are maintained at the very least.
- 5.68 The role of synthetic pitches is important in dealing with some of the issues affecting the natural grass stock. For example, the capacity of artificial pitches is greater than grass pitches; however this is dependent on opening hours and the availability of floodlighting. An indirect impact of artificial training areas and 5-a-side courts is that they free up sports hall space for other sports by accommodating 5-a-side football. Additionally, the provision of 5-a-side facilities may reduce the demand and programming issues on full size synthetic pitches that are required for hockey training.
- 5.69 Consideration should be given to upgrading a large proportion of the current stock to third generation turf. This would make these facilities eligible to host competitive matches and therefore reduce pressure on the grass pitches.

Active Places Power – Strategic planning tool

- 5.70 Sport England's Active Places Power provides a planning tool for sports facilities. It is designed to assist in investment decisions and the development of infrastructure improvement strategies for sport. It enables analysis of different types of sports facilities per 1000 of the population.
- 5.71 There are currently 0.3 STPs per 1,000 people in Southwark. This is in line with the national average (also 0.3) and greater than the London average (0.2). On a purely quantitative basis, therefore, Southwark has a good level of synthetic turf provision.
- 5.72 However, it should be recognised that only six of these facilities are fully accessible, with the remainder located on private school sites with limited community access.

Summary

- 5.73 Application of the PPM suggests that when considering adult and junior football pitches together, overall there is a theoretically a sufficient number of pitches across the borough. This should not, however, detract from localised areas of deficiency (ie Peckham Rye).
- 5.74 Shortfalls in provision would be significantly reduced if the pitches of those schools' that do not permit community access were made available. Shortfalls in provision would also be reduced if the carrying capacity of pitches were increased so that all pitches can sustain at least two games per week. This is currently not the case due to the poor quality of provision at some sites.
- 5.75 The qualitative issues and lack of accessibility to many football pitch sites further impacts on the quantity of pitch stock. It is important that there are more pitches available than the exact level of demand from teams, to allow for the rest and recovery and therefore maintenance of pitch quality. At present there is no 'slack' (strategic reserve) in the pitch stock to allow pitches to lay fallow and recover, which is impacting on the quality of pitches.
- 5.76 The County FA has confirmed that qualitative improvements are required at some sites.
- 5.77 The supply of cricket and hockey pitches is broadly in balance with demand. However, there is a significant undersupply of junior rugby pitches which cannot be met by the senior pitch stock. Possible re-designation of other types of pitches (ie football into rugby) might be appropriate.
- 5.78 Team Generation Rates (TGRs), show that participation in football is lower in Southwark than the national average. However, participation in junior cricket and in rugby union and slightly higher than the averages, meaning that demand for pitches in these sports is high.
- 5.79 Current national and local agendas relating to increasing physical activity and sports participation may have a significant impact on participation in pitch sports in future years and may increase the overall demand for pitches. Similar increases in population growth will also increase demand for pitches, especially in the northern part of the Borough, which is already underprovided for in terms of pitches.

6. The Future Delivery of Playing Pitch Provision in Southwark

06

- 6.1 The aspirations of the Council to increase levels of participation in physical activity across the borough, means that the quantity, quality and accessibility of playing pitches must not only meets the needs of the local communities now, but also in the future.
- 6.2 The application of the Playing Pitch Methodology (PPM) and a detailed analysis of the supply and demand for pitch sports across Southwark has been set out in sections 4 and 5. This section considers the key findings of this analysis and provides solutions to address the key issues outlined.
- 6.3 Whilst there are identified future needs for additional pitches, particularly in the south of the borough, the majority of this could be overcome by negotiating community access to private education facilities. In light of the pressures on land, a focus should be placed on improving the quality of existing sites and introduce more flexibility into the booking system to allow teams to use pitches outside of the current morning/afternoon allocations.
- 6.4 Ensuring the appropriate distribution of pitches to meet local needs and existing and future demand is particularly important in light of:
- The future expected population growth which may generate additional demand for pitches in future years;
 - The pressure of available land, particularly in the north of the Borough, means that provision in this area should be protected through the planning process;
 - The pressure on pitches in the south of the borough, which have to accommodate exported demand from the north, needs to be identified to ensure that they are of sufficient quality to accommodate the maximum possible number of matches;
 - The growth in junior and mini football participation means that more 'dedicated' pitches are required. However, the London FA also has to meet national targets to arrest the decline in and grow adult participation rates, which will result in an increased demand for senior pitches. Co-locating senior and junior pitches, along with segregated ancillary provision, will be crucial in delivering participation targets; and
 - The overall target by Sport England to grow participation in sport. Good quality, welcoming facilities are an important factor in encouraging more people into sport.
- 6.5 As concluded in sections four and five, the key issues for pitches in Southwark are:
- There is a significant under supply of junior football pitches in the borough, which cannot be offset by the oversupply in senior pitches. This suggests that some senior pitches could be re-designated to be more compatible with the needs of local teams;
 - School pitches are of particular importance if facilities for community football are to improve. In particular, pitches located at private schools are not accessible to the community and, whilst it is recognised that there is no obligation for these schools to offer community access, some limited use by community clubs could be negotiated. Private

schools are under pressure to permit community use in order to retain their charitable status;

- In other local authorities the BSF Programme presents an opportunity to improve pitches and ancillary provision. However, with the majority of schools not managing their own outdoor facilities in Southwark, this is not a solution;
- Generally, the quality of pitches in the borough is good, with around three-quarters of the stock (77%) rated as good quality;
- The key quality issues at Council sites primarily relates to a lack of/poor quality changing provision; and
- An issue at park sites is the high levels of informal use, mainly by teams using pitches for training purposes. This practice reduces the quality of the pitches.

6.6 It is essential that this playing pitch strategy is not considered in isolation, but that links with other strategies are recognised and the opportunities to achieve wider objectives through pitch provision are sought.

Visions, aims and objectives

6.7 The vision for this strategy is to:

Ensure that the quality and quantity of pitches meets the needs and aspirations of residents of Southwark now and in the future.

6.8 The aims of the strategy are to:

- Protect current levels of provision through the planning process;
- Ensure that the type of facilities available meets the needs of a wide cross-section of the community, including adults and juniors;
- Improve and make accessible, playing pitches and ancillary facilities throughout the borough;
- Support the development of local sports clubs in meeting Sport England and wider NGB participation targets; and
- Improve the health and wellbeing of residents by providing high quality opportunities for sporting activities.

6.9 The objectives that support the vision and aims and will underpin successful delivery are as follows:

- Ensure that the quantity of facilities is sufficient to meet local need;
- Ensure that the quality of facilities is fit for purpose and ensures a high level of user and resident satisfaction;
- Maximise access to existing facilities; and
- Ensure that facilities provide value for money and are efficiently managed.

6.10 The remainder of this section considers the priorities and key recommendations for pitch provision in Southwark.

A hierarchical approach to pitch provision

6.11 In view of the need to achieve higher standards of pitch and ancillary provision across the borough, a hierarchy of pitch provision is proposed.

6.12 Sport England recommends a playing pitch "hub" approach where pitches for an area are concentrated on fewer sites with a greater number of pitches on each site. This is with a view to providing a higher standard of facilities on fewer sites. A hub site may be a local authority or private facility but should offer a critical mass of facilities.

6.13 The second tier of the hierarchy comprises of smaller satellite sites, located strategically to serve communities across the borough. Satellite sites are able to add value, as additional, complementary opportunities through their being associated with the hub facilities. A better use of limited resources will arise from investment and management in more sustainable sites.

6.14 This hierarchy has been used to identify the pitches providing for higher level adult and junior competition, and those for lower level adult competition, casual play and training.

6.15 One of the key principles of the hierarchy is that changing facilities should only be provided on managed sites.

6.16 A set of qualitative standards have been recommended for each tier in the hierarchy. Based on an appraisal of sites Table 6.1 below identifies existing sites that are most suitable for inclusion in each tier of the hierarchy.

Table 6.1 Proposed hierarchy of pitch provision

Tier	Qualitative standards	Example pitch sites
Tier 1 – Hub sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi pitch site (at least 4 pitches); • Multi sport site where possible; • Good quality changing facilities that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are flexible, fit for a variety of purposes and which fully comply with the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act; - Provide for a number of different groups to use the facility at the same time, in safety and comfort; - Meet current standards - Sport England & NGB guidelines • High standard of maintenance; • Provision of adult, junior pitches & mini 	<p>Peckham Rye Park</p> <p>Burgess Park</p> <p>Belair Park</p> <p>Southwark Park</p>

Tier	Qualitative standards	Example pitch sites
	<p>pitches where possible (critical mass);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality of site – should score 90% or above using site assessment matrix; • Easily accessible by public transport and by car, with sufficient car parking; • Size of pitch must meet NGB specification; • Provides for the higher level adult and junior competition. 	
Tier 2 – satellite sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi pitch site (at least 2 pitches); • Adequate changing facilities (new builds must meet current standards); • Managed community access; • Quality of site – should score 70% or above using site assessment matrix; • Lower standard of maintenance compared to hub sites; • Easily accessible by public transport; • Walking distance from a high proportion of residents; • Size of pitch must meet NGB specification; • Provides for lower level adult competition. 	<p>Dulwich Park</p> <p>Pynners Close Playing Fields</p>
Tier 3 – other sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be leased to club to make qualitative improvements; • Quality of site – should score 70% or above using site assessment matrix; • Continue maintenance as reserve sites to cater for teams displaced from normal playing venues, to provide informal recreational space once Tier 2 and 3 sites are established and meet demand for 	<p>Homestall Road</p>

Tier	Qualitative standards	Example pitch sites
	formal matches.	

6.17 The initial priority is for the achievement of community use agreements on private school sites, coupled with the creation of one more hub site. Both these factors will enable increased facility capacity and use, and take the pressure off existing pitches. The tier 1 and 2 sites should be priorities for improvement.

6.18 Further development of pitch sites in the future should be assessed in line with the above hierarchy.

Quantity

Protection of existing provision

6.19 The identified deficiencies of certain pitch types (and pressures on the overall pitch stock in the borough) emphasise the importance of protecting many of the existing areas of playing pitch land and open space in public, private and educational ownership, as playing pitches can be under threat from other, non sport development.

6.20 Due to the current levels of demand and the pressures on pitches to cope with this demand, all known playing fields sites should be afforded protection within specific policies that benefit sport and physical activity in Southwark.

6.21 PPM calculations indicate that there are local shortfalls in provision (eg Dulwich has a shortfall of junior rugby union) but, overall, there is an adequate number of pitches to meet future projected demand. However, when the temporal demand is analysed, this shows a shortfall in junior and mini football pitch provision and junior rugby union. This means that although there appears to be an adequate supply of pitches, there are some shortfalls at periods of peak demand (normally Sunday morning).

6.22 It is therefore of paramount importance that all playing pitches are protected. Although there is a theoretical shortfall of junior football pitches on peak days, in reality teams are using senior pitches to play competitive matches. It should be recognised that the senior pitch stock is actually accommodating junior matches and is strategically vital to ensuring there are sufficient pitches for local teams.

6.23 Although the importance of protecting pitches is clear, Sport England policy outlined in A Sporting Future for Playing Fields in England outlines five conditions that may allow for development on a playing field. If one of these five conditions is met then disposal of a site may be permitted if the overall change to the pitch provision has positive repercussions for pitch provision in the borough. The five conditions are:

- A carefully quantified and documented assessment of current and future needs has demonstrated to the satisfaction of Sport England that there is an excess of playing field provision in the catchment, and the site has no special significance to the interests of sport;
- The proposed development is ancillary to the principal use of the site as a playing field or playing fields, and does not affect the quantity or quality of pitches or adversely affect their use;
- The proposed development affects only land incapable of forming, or forming part of, a playing pitch, and does not result in the loss of or inability to make use of any playing pitch (including the maintenance of adequate safety margins), a reduction in the size of the

playing areas of any playing pitch or the loss of any other sporting/ancillary facilities on the site;

- The playing field or playing fields, which would be lost as a result of the proposed development, would be replaced by a playing field or playing fields of an equivalent or better quality and of equivalent or greater quantity, in a suitable location and subject to equivalent or better management arrangements, prior to the commencement of development; and
- The proposed development is for an indoor or outdoor sports facility, the provision of which would be of sufficient benefit to the development of sport as to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss of the playing field or playing fields.

PPS 1	All pitch sites should specifically be afforded protection within the Local Development Framework. Protection policies should link with policies for other types of open space.
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6.24 As well as protecting pitches, consideration should be given to the implications of new development and consequential population growth on the demand for pitches. Where new development places additional demands on open space, sport and recreation facilities, planning obligations can help ensure that development does not have an adverse impact on existing sport, recreation and open space infrastructure. This will be achieved through policies in the emerging Core Strategy and subsequent Development Plan Documents.

6.25 It should be clear when developers will be required to provide facilities on site, where developer contributions or works in kind will be secured for new infrastructure and/or for the improvement to existing infrastructure and where maintenance contributions will be required to meet the additional demands placed upon it by new development.

6.26 Planning conditions or S106 agreements should also be used where appropriate to secure community use agreements at private school sites to provide an enhanced range of facilities for the community.

PPS 2	The Council should develop policy to secure developer contributions to improve the quality of existing outdoor playing pitches or alternative sporting provision in the borough and provide new playing pitches where a shortfall has been identified.
PPS 2A	The Council should create a standard planning condition to be attached to a planning permission to enable the effective use of community use agreements.

Providing a minimum level of provision

6.27 An important outcome from a playing pitch strategy is the development of local standards of provision, in accordance with PPG17. Such standards will:

- Underpin negotiations with developers over their contributions towards new pitch provision to meet the needs of new residential developments;
- Provide an additional overview of the general supply of pitches/level of provision;

- Assist in protecting land in playing field use; and
 - Assist in benchmarking with other areas/authorities.
- 6.28 Fields in Trust standards for pitch provision states that for every 1,000 people, 1.2 hectares of playing pitches should be provided. However, this is a national benchmark and it is important to also consider the local context and local variations that may cause this. This is particularly important in inner London boroughs, where land availability is at a premium.
- 6.29 PPG17 advocates the development of local standards that consider the local population and local community needs. The findings of this playing pitch strategy will inform the development of a local quantity standard for pitches which will reflect local demand for football, cricket and rugby pitches in the Borough. STPs are not included in this standard due to the range of pitches (eg sand based, 3G) and the fact that they are only principally used for competitive play by hockey clubs.
- 6.30 The current level of provision and the proposed local standard has been calculated below. The existing level of provision is based upon the current supply of community accessible pitches (measured in area) in the borough, divided by the population. The current level of all playing pitches is equivalent to 0.32 hectares per 1000 population.
- 6.31 The PPM outlines where current shortfalls and surpluses exist for each type of sport and suggests potential solutions to ensure that provision meets the needs of the community.
- 6.32 The local standard calculation is based upon the findings of this report. The local standard takes into account the additional pitches needed (or surplus pitches identified) to meet demand and calculates the area of this required level of provision. This method of calculating the standard is based on local need and is therefore compliant with the principles set out in PPG17.
- 6.33 For Southwark, a minimum of 0.37ha of accessible playing pitches per 1000 people is required to meet local demand by 2026.
- 6.34 This figure constitutes a minimum level of provision to ensure that supply and demand are aligned, and also takes into account a 10% strategic reserve, which will ensure that the Council has sufficient stock to 'rest' certain pitches when required.
- 6.35 Some degree of spare capacity is also an integral part of playing pitch provision for the following reasons:
- To accommodate latent and future demand for existing pitch sport teams;
 - To enable the development of new clubs and teams;
 - For the development / expansion of new pitch sports (such as mini-soccer and 'tag' rugby); and
 - To accommodate backlogs and for rest and recovery periods.

PPS 3	Seek opportunities to Increase the existing level of community accessible pitch provision from 0.32 ha per 1000 to 0.37 ha per 1000 population. However, there should also be a focus on improving existing provision.
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- 6.36 The local standard should be used in order to ascertain the level of input from developers as it states the required amount of land per 1000 population. For example, a development providing

housing for 1000 people would be expected to provide sufficient funding for 0.37 hectares of playing pitch provision. The most appropriate type of provision (ie the sport where there is the highest need) should then be determined using the results of the playing pitch methodology. In some cases where there are no deficiencies it may be appropriate to fund the qualitative enhancement of existing pitches/sites. A developer should only be asked to fund the additional shortfalls their development will create. They cannot be asked to make up existing deficiencies. This relates to recommendation PPS 2, which highlights the need to include standards of provision in a Supplementary Planning Documents.

Ensuring provision meets demand in the longer term

6.37 As part of this study, we have looked at what could happen in the future, taking into account demographic and participation changes. The spreadsheet provided to the Council ensures that changes to both the pitch stock and the demand for those pitches can be updated. The continual updating of this spreadsheet to reflect changes to provision and demand will be particularly important in the coming years in light of the projected population increase and the proposed increase in pitches.

PPS 4	Ensure the modelling spreadsheet is kept up to date to reflect the ongoing changes in population, housing developments and sports development initiatives in addition to improvements made to the pitch stock.
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Project under development

6.38 A number of projects have been under development over the course of the research period for the project. These are:

- Mellish Fields – managed by the College the site provides a full size, third generation STP as well as 2 small-sided STPs, 2 full size football pitches, a mini-soccer pitch and a number of ancillary facilities such as cricket nets and athletics facilities. A 5-a-side league will operate from the facility and Docklands Junior FC, a Charter Standard accredited football club, will use the facility. This is an important site as it increases provision in the north of the borough;
- Southwark Park – the full-size STP is being resurfaced and there will be 3 new small-sided STPs, 2 of which are third generation. The grass pitches will undergo drainage work which will enable them to accommodate more matches per week. However, community usage will be limited due to increased demand from schools.

6.39 A number of other projects have recently secured funding, are about to be constructed or have recently been delivered. These projects do not add to the existing grass pitch stock, but should be recognised in the context of increasing informal training facilities for local clubs and teams, as well as improving the quality of existing sites. These include:

Table 6.2 Proposals

Site	Development	Contribution to PPS delivery
Tabard Gardens	<p>New small-sided STP has been upgraded.</p> <p>A commercial operator is keen to establish small-sided leagues from the site.</p>	<p>The increase in facilities which can be used by local clubs for training will protect local pitches by providing good quality, alternative spaces to hire. It is important that some time is allocated in the programme for this type of organised usage (alongside formal small-sided league operation)</p>
Peckham Pulse Leisure Centre	<p>Proposals for new small-sided STPs and tennis courts, of which will be floodlit.</p>	<p>Peckham is under-provided for in terms of outdoor sports facilities and this facility will be an important addition to the facility base and drive up participation in what is a target area.</p>
Greendale Sports Ground	<p>Currently an overgrown area adjacent to Dulwich Hamlet FC. Proposals for a new floodlit STP (STP already floodlit at present).</p>	<p>Any proposals to increase STP provision in the borough should be supported as long as community access can be guaranteed.</p>
Peckham Rye/Homestall Road	<p>Proposals for a new changing facility to cater for teams using both sites. This would replace the temporary facilities on Peckham Rye.</p>	<p>Peckham Rye is considered flagship site due to the level of sporting provision it provides. Therefore, changing facilities should be of the highest quality in line with the qualitative standards for tier 1 sites.</p> <p>Changing facilities on Homestall Road are poor quality and not fit for purpose.</p> <p>A masterplanning exercise should be carried out across the 2 sites which could include additional mini-pitches on Homestall Road and new changing at Peckham Rye Park.</p>

6.40 Whilst not all of the above projects provide new formal pitches in the borough, each development will contribute to enhancing the level of facilities available for sports teams, particularly for training purposes. Full-size, third generation STPs can also be used for competitive matches and therefore add to the pitches stock. It is therefore important that the Council engages in consultation with both the London FA and local leagues to ensure the surface is sanctioned for matches.

Quality

Enhancement of existing provision

- 6.41 Provision of quality facilities is essential to encourage people to participate. In addition, the quality of pitches impacts not only on the quality of play, but also on the potential capacity of a pitch and hence numerical surpluses and deficiencies.
- 6.42 Improvements to pitch quality will be essential to maintain and increase participation rates in the borough.
- 6.43 Deficiencies identified by the PPM and highlighted in section 5 can be addressed through the improvement of existing pitches and facilities. With the lack of available land in the borough, making qualitative improvements to existing provision is important. Key issues highlighted by consultation and site assessments with regards to the quality of pitches include:
- The quality of public pitches is generally perceived to be adequate by sports clubs. This is substantiated by the site visits which rate over three-quarters of provision as good or excellent quality;
 - The highest quality pitches in the borough are located at private sites, particularly the private schools such as Dulwich College. There is limited community use of these facilities;
 - High levels of informal use of park pitches is leading to a deterioration of pitches on the site.
 - Current, and planned future, curriculum usage of park pitches by schools impacts on the quality of the pitches. Higher maintenance costs are also required to cater for this additional usage.
 - A number of sites have either poor quality or no ancillary provision. One particular site is Homestall Road, which has a temporary changing facility which is not fit for purpose. Due to its proximity to Peckham Rye, which itself has temporary changing provision, a one site solution should be found which provides a quality facility for the two sites.
 - Of those sites which do have ancillary provision, some do not provide segregated changing.
 - Car parking is insufficient at several sites. However, improving access by public transport and walking/cycle routes should be encouraged.
- 6.44 Implementation of this playing pitch strategy should drive a rolling programme of improvements across Council pitch sites. This will improve capacity, drive increases in participation, improve access for all groups and enable higher participation levels to be maintained over a sustained period.
- 6.45 Any programme of improvements should bear in mind the following issues:
- The standard of play at the site (including league requirements);
 - The demand on the site (the number of games played per week);
 - The need to facilitate concurrent usage by young people, women and other target groups through appropriate ancillary facilities;
 - Facility specifications from National Governing Body (NGB) strategies.

- 6.46 All facilities should meet with National Governing Body Standards in terms of both the quality of pitches and ancillary facilities. Condition surveys should be undertaken in order to determine the quality of existing ancillary facilities and establish any necessary improvements.
- 6.47 PPG17 highlights that there are several factors integral to the successful delivery of a network of high quality sport and recreation, stating that:
- 6.48 “Quality depends on two things: the needs and expectations of users, on the one hand, and design, management and maintenance on the other”
- 6.49 All new pitches developed should meet the quality standards detailed above.
- 6.50 In order to drive a programme of improvements, the Council should focus on:
- Those pitches scoring below 60% (the percentage score required to be categorised as good) for the site and ancillary facilities;
 - Those sites rated as good which are considered to be of strategic importance (ie tier 1 flagship sites) which should be improved to 90% (the percentage score required to be categorised as excellent).
- 6.51 The proportion of pitches and ancillary facilities meeting this requirement should be monitored annually. The site assessment matrix can be found in Appendix C.
- 6.52 The Council should act as an enabler and support all partners in maintenance, improvement and enhancement of their facilities. Outlined below is a priority list of pitches for facility improvements (Council owned). This includes both pitches and ancillary accommodation. A more detailed way forward for each locality area which includes pitch sites in across all ownership types is provide later in the section.

PPS 5	<p>The focus for the Council should be on the improvement of those ‘poor quality’ sites and those tier 1 flagship sites which could be further improved. Improvement priority should be based on the strategic importance of the site and where it fits into the pitch hierarchy.</p> <p>Furthermore, a policy of rest and recovery should be brought into operation at all pitch sites ensuring that the quality of pitches does not deteriorate over the course of a season or from season to season. This is particularly important in light of high informal and education use.</p> <p>The programme of improvement should concentrate on tier 1 and tier 2 pitch sites.</p>
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Table 6.3 Priority list of pitch improvements

Site	Issues	Improvements required
Homestall Road	Poor quality changing provision and unused land on the site.	Construct a new changing facility on Peckham Rye Park and relocate the current, temporary changing facilities to Homestall Road. Increase the number of pitches on the site by developing the existing tennis courts. This should include 2 mini soccer pitches to overcome identified shortfalls.
Cossall Park	Not used for competitive matches and is an ideal site to create new pitches to contribute to the provision of a strategic reserve.	Explore the possibility of providing 2 mini-soccer pitches on the site.
Greendale	Not used and has fallen into disrepair. Proposals by Dulwich Hamlet FC to re-instate facility.	New surface and floodlights required.
Pynners Road Playing Fields	Poor quality changing provision and significant slope of pitches, which are uneven.	Upgrade of changing facility and levelling of pitches.
Southwark Park	Poor drainage of outdoor pitches and STPs surface is at the end of its usable life.	Installation of verti-drain system to grass pitches to increase weekly carrying capacity and re-surfacing of STP.
Belair Park	No changing facility	Construct a new changing facility on the site.

Accessibility

- 6.53 It is important to ensure as far as possible that all residents are able to access a pitch within an appropriate distance of their home and that a lack of facilities does not does not inhibit demand for pitches.
- 6.54 Although the guidance set out in 'Towards a Level Playing Field' does not consider the accessibility of pitches in relation to distance thresholds, consideration of access is an essential tool in effective planning of pitch provision.
- 6.55 There are three elements to accessibility of playing pitches:
- How easy it is to get there;
 - Whether access on to the site is controlled or not (for example by agreement, membership, cost); and
 - Local knowledge and perceptions of sites and what they have to offer.
- 6.56 The open spaces strategy states that most people expect to travel 15 minutes to outdoor sports facilities.

Improving access to school/college pitches

- 6.57 According to PPG17, outdoor sports facilities are only considered to be high value if they are accessible to the local community. An inaccessible facility is of limited value to the local community as a sports facility, regardless of the quality of the space.
- 6.58 Access to school and college sites is a frequently raised issue across the UK, with many good quality playing fields sitting unused on peak days. This issue is not as prevalent in Southwark because the majority of state schools do not have on-site facilities, and have to use park pitches to deliver their curriculum requirements.
- 6.59 Both Alleyn's School and Dulwich College have some of the best pitches in the Borough. Across the two sites there is a total of 8 senior football, 2 mini football, 9 cricket, 3 rugby union and 3 STPs. Usage of the sites by the community is limited – only Tulse Hill & Dulwich Hockey Club uses the STP at Dulwich College for matches.
- 6.60 Some of the shortfalls in pitch provision could be alleviated by securing some weekend community access to the pitches. In particular, a focus should be placed on accessing the football stock and rugby union pitches.
- 6.61 Encouraging schools to permit community use may require genuine financial commitment from the local authority to facilitate site access at weekends, and also a contribution to increased maintenance of the pitches to accommodate the increase in usage. It is also unlikely that changing facilities would be made available.
- 6.62 In addition, the Council should take a strategic position in identifying suitable and responsible clubs who could establish a school-club link. These clubs should be Charter Standard/Clubmark accredited and be well run. If necessary they should be taken away from their traditional 'home' grounds, which would further release capacity at other sites.

PPS 6

Explore the potential to secure community access at Alleyn's School and Dulwich College.

6.63 It must be acknowledged that school pitches are required to meet curricular demand during the week, and the schools must guarantee high quality facilities to its pupils. It is essential that they can effectively meet this role first, as their primary purpose, and therefore wear and tear on these sites should be minimised.

PPS 7	Where possible, any school pitches available for community use should be assigned for youth/junior/mini games to protect the site and ensure it is able to serve its primary purpose.
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6.64 This links with the PPM findings, which indicate that the greatest shortfall of all pitches in the borough is junior football pitches.

Improving the current and future management of facilities

6.65 The principal pitch provider in the borough is the Council through pitches located on parks. This should enable a consistent and efficient approach to the management, cost and booking of pitches.

6.66 The Council should facilitate the effective delivery of pitches through:

- Ensuring the pitch booking system becomes simple and efficient to use – this should be reviewed on an annual basis in consultation with users. Specifically, the potential to develop an online booking system should be examined;
- Identifying high quality clubs, such as those with Charter Standard/Clubmark accreditation, and allocating them to the better quality pitches, in particular those at tier 1 (flagship sites);
- Being more flexible as to the pitch allocation times. At present, teams can book for either the morning or afternoon. However, it may be that clubs, in particular those with junior teams, can play matches back to back, rather than have defined kick off times;
- Consideration of a two-tier charging policy to link with the aforementioned hierarchy, where higher quality facilities are available at a higher fee. However, this should only be considered once investment and subsequent improvement has been carried out so users can identify a tangible improvement in facilities;
- Promoting joint and partnership working across the Council and with key stakeholders in the provision of playing pitches through the development of a joint working group. The group should involve key stakeholders including leisure and grounds maintenance contractors, Education, Sports Development, Key Clubs and the Council Planning department.

6.67 This playing pitch strategy provides an assessment of all playing pitches in the borough. The creation of a working group should be considered to implement the findings of this strategy and ensure a consistent approach to the management of playing pitches across Southwark.

PPS 8	Improve the management of pitches and take a strategic approach to pitch allocation. Promote joint and partnership working across the Council and with key stakeholders in the provision of playing pitches through the development of a joint working group (all pitch sports). Focus should be on identifying priorities for improvement in relation to quantity, quality
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and accessibility.

Use of facilities for training

- 6.68 There is a tendency for local teams to use pitches for training sessions. This is linked to a lack of (and lack of access to) adequate dedicated training facilities, such as sports halls and STPs. The issue is particularly acute in Southwark due to the high level of school usage in addition to other informal use. Training on match pitches further exacerbates the quality issues at pitch sites and generates wear and tear.
- 6.69 Artificial surfaces provide more consistent playing and practice conditions than grass. The development of synthetic turf pitches (STPs) has fundamentally changed the way some sports are played and matches are programmed. Few (if any) hockey matches are now played on grass, and frequently games can only be accommodated by sequential programming on match days. In time, the development of ‘third generation’ STPs for football may have a similar effect.
- 6.70 Sport England research into the use of sand-based STPs indicates that they play two principal roles - midweek training for football and weekend matches for hockey. Additionally, the popularity of five a side football as a game in its own right is increasing.
- 6.71 Throughout this report, the analysis of the demand for synthetic pitches has primarily focused on the demand for hockey pitches. In light of the growing role of synthetic pitches for football training, it is essential to consider the need for additional facilities for the purposes of football training.
- 6.72 The capacity of artificial pitches is greater than grass pitches. However, this is dependent on opening hours and the availability of floodlighting. One of the greatest impacts of artificial training areas and 5-a-side courts is that they free up sports hall space for other sports by accommodating 5-a-side football. It is necessary therefore that links are created between this playing pitch strategy and providers of small-sided, STP facilities. For example, the development of small sided pitches at Peckham Pulse will not only provide opportunities for competitive, small-sided football, but should also set aside sessions in its programme for training, when local teams can simply pay to play informally to train for their weekend matches.
- 6.73 There are also a number of Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs) across the borough. Whilst these facilities are meeting some demand for casual play, they do not offset the demand for facilities for competitive fixtures and formal training. The MUGAs that have been developed in recent years have all been installed with a tarmac surface and so are not really suitable for football training. Nevertheless, as these MUGAs are floodlit, they could offset some demand particularly in those areas where access to local training facilities is most problematic. Clubs do not consider such facilities to be suitable for training purposes and the Council should actively increase awareness of their location through a campaign to local clubs.
- 6.74 Provision for training is an important part of pitch provision. Without this, clubs may use match day facilities meaning deterioration in the overall quality of pitches due to the amount of use that they are required to sustain.

PPS 9	Ensure that dedicated 5-a-side football facilities programme some sessions for informal training. Increase awareness of MUGAs and their potential to provide alternative space for training sessions.
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- 6.75 The PPM and consultation suggests that there is no need for increased provision of synthetic pitches for hockey in the area. Both the pitches at Alleyn’s School and Dulwich College are well used by the hockey clubs in the borough.
- 6.76 Consultation with other sport clubs and consultees however, indicated that the provision of synthetic turf pitches for football in the borough is insufficient, and that another synthetic pitch and/or dedicated 5-a-side provision would help to meet the needs of local clubs. The current level of provision for Southwark is 0.4 STPs per 1,000 people, which is in line with the national average (0.04) and above the London average (0.03).
- 6.77 Despite this, a number of small-sided STPs are being developed. These are not included as part of this study, but are valuable resources in providing training facilities to local clubs.
- 6.78 It is also recommended that the Council encourages schools to use STPs where it is locationally convenient. This reduces pressure on existing grass pitches and also increases usage of STPs at off-peak times.

PPS 10	The Council should seek to work with the Football Foundation to explore the potential of developing additional third generation turf pitches in Southwark, particularly in areas which will benefit local schools.
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Dealing with site over use

- 6.79 The majority of playing pitches are concentrated in the south of the borough, specifically in and around Dulwich. Currently, there is an undersupply of rugby union pitches in this area. However, it should be recognised that these sites are also accommodating teams from the north. Anecdotal evidence suggests that this scenario is forcing teams into neighbouring authorities to use pitches and therefore it is likely that there are teams which, given the opportunity, would prefer to play in Dulwich.
- 6.80 There are a couple of sites in the borough that are currently being over used:
- Belair Park – this site is overused on a weekly basis by teams from Southwark Caribb and PELO. This site does not have a changing facility and could be improved by installing adequate drainage;
 - Burgess Park – used for a midweek league during the summer, this site holds too many matches on a weekly basis. In addition, Walworth Academy uses the site during the week.
- 6.81 There are a number of pitch sites that have the potential to be used for formal matches, even if only to accommodate junior and mini teams. These are:
- Cossall Park;
 - St Pauls; and
 - Tabard Gardens.
- 6.82 To help reduce pressures on over used pitches, the Council should seek to either:
- Create additional mini-soccer pitches at currently unused certain sites and offer them at a reduced rate to clubs with mini teams to actively encourage them to use the sites;

- Move teams currently playing on over used pitches to other pitches in the borough that are currently under used;
- Improve the quality of existing pitch sites so that carrying capacity is increased and the pitch is able to sustain more matches per week.

6.83 However, before moving teams it is important to consider the quality of sites to ensure they can meet the increased demand. This may require some further investment and increase maintenance costs, although could be part-offset by an increase in revenue.

PPS 11	Consider reallocation of teams to pitches which are currently underused in order to reduce overplaying and maintain the quality of pitches. The Council should look to do this in conjunction with schools/colleges.
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Summary and conclusions

6.84 The key issues arising from the application of the methodology include:

- There is a significant under supply of junior football pitches in the borough, which cannot be offset by the oversupply in senior pitches. Assuming senior pitches accommodate junior matches then there remains a deficiency of 3 junior pitches;
- There is a shortfall of mini-soccer pitches (3) in the peak period. This is likely to increase in the future as mini-soccer participation increases;
- There is a deficit of 9 junior rugby union pitches on the peak day;
- Although there are theoretical surpluses of certain types of pitches, in particular senior football (12.4) and senior rugby union (3.5), the strategic importance of these pitches in accommodating junior pitch shortfalls must be recognised;
- Pitches located at private schools, which are excellent quality, are not accessible to the community;
- Generally, the quality of pitches in the borough is good, with around three-quarters of the stock (77%) rated as good quality;
- The key quality issues at Council sites primarily relates to a lack of/poor quality changing provision;
- An issue at park sites is the high levels of informal use, mainly by teams using pitches for training purposes. This practice reduces the quality of the pitches and cannot be monitored effectively to charge users.

6.85 The key implications of these findings for the Local Development Framework are to:

- Protect all pitches from development unless at least one of the criteria identified in the Sport England planning guidance document, *A Sporting Future For Playing Fields in England*, is met;
- A local standard of 0.37ha per 1000 population specific to community accessible pitch provision in Southwark should be applied;

- Seek to improve the quality of pitches at the tier 1 and tier 2 Council sites. Prioritise tier 1 sites for improvement so they are 'flagship' sites for pitch sports in the Borough. Improvements at tier 2 sites should be more medium term and all improvements should include the provision of appropriate changing facilities and installation of drainage where required;
- Support the development new pitches where opportunities arise;
- Support appropriate applications to the Football Foundation in line with County FA priorities;
- Attempt to secure additional school facilities for community use;
- Allow for a strategic reserve of 10% of pitches to ensure that rest and recovery can take place and to accommodate latent demand;
- Take a strategic role in allocating good quality clubs to the better pitch sites to meet their needs.

7. Action Plan

07

7.1 This five year action plan is intended to be a working document and must be reviewed and updated on a regular (at least annual) basis. It is recommended that a facilities working group is formed to 'own' the strategy and be responsible for its implementation. The playing pitch strategy as a whole has a lifespan of five years after which time it should be updated (ie 2014).

REF.	PROPOSED ACTION	STRATEGY REFERENCE	LEAD	PARTNER AGENCIES	TIMESCALE	MEASURE OF SUCCESS
A1	Ensure all pitch sites are afforded protection within the LDF.	PPS1	LBS - Planning	-	Short (0-1yr)	Specific policies for the protection of pitches within the LDF
A2	Develop a policy to secure developer contributions to improve the quality and quantity of existing outdoor playing pitches. Create a standard planning condition to be attached to a planning permission to enable the effective use of community use agreements.	PPS2 PPS2A	LBS Planning	LBS - Leisure	Short (0-1yr)	Developer contributions policy & standard planning condition in place. Developer contributions & community use of facilities secured in the medium-long term

REF.	PROPOSED ACTION	STRATEGY REFERENCE	LEAD	PARTNER AGENCIES	TIMESCALE	MEASURE OF SUCCESS
A3	<p>Work with private sector leisure providers to identify, develop and execute projects to increase the number of pitches in the Borough.</p> <p>Increase the number of floodlit, community-accessible training facilities and raise awareness of them through effective marketing to local sports clubs.</p>	PPS3	LBS Leisure	<p>External funding agencies</p> <p>Private sector</p>	Ongoing	New, additional high quality sports facilities add to pitch stock in the Borough
A4	<p>Engage with operators of private education sites (particularly in and around Dulwich) to negotiate increased community access to outdoor pitches.</p> <p>Identify responsible and well run clubs to enter into community use agreements with private operators.</p>	PPS3	<p>LBS Leisure</p> <p>(Head of Service)</p>	Private education providers	Short-medium (0-3 yrs)	Increase in use of private education sites for competitive matches

REF.	PROPOSED ACTION	STRATEGY REFERENCE	LEAD	PARTNER AGENCIES	TIMESCALE	MEASURE OF SUCCESS
A5	<p>Create capacity in the pitch stock by creating formal pitches at the following sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cossall Park – mini-football pitches; • Tabard Gardens – mini-football pitches (use STPs for competition matches) • Homestall Road – replace disused tennis courts with new, mini-football pitches. 	<p>PPS3</p> <p>PPS5</p> <p>PPS12</p>	<p>LBS Leisure</p> <p>LBS Parks</p>	Local clubs and leagues	Ongoing	New junior/mini pitches hired by community teams
A6	Update the PPM modelling spreadsheet to reflect ongoing changes in population & changes to the pitch stock.	PPS4	LBS Leisure	Clubs/providers LBS Planning	Ongoing	An up to date PPM spreadsheet & pitch database
A7	Establish a hierarchy of pitches in accordance with the criteria set out in Section 6 (6.10).	PPS5	LBS	Various	Short (0-1 yrs)	Clearly defined pitch hierarchy with priorities for investment clearly identified

REF.	PROPOSED ACTION	STRATEGY REFERENCE	LEAD	PARTNER AGENCIES	TIMESCALE	MEASURE OF SUCCESS
A8	<p>Improve quality of the overall pitch stock by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developing a policy of rest and recovery across pitch sites; - Developing a prioritised and costed programme of site improvements for submission to the Capital Programme, external funding organisations, etc – in line with the hierarchy and priority list of pitch improvements (see below) - Restrict the number of schools using park pitches to protect them. Where feasible, schools should be encouraged to use the synthetic pitches at park sites (eg Tabard Gardens, Geraldine Mary Harnsworth). This would not only increase usage (and therefore revenue) at off-peak times but would also provide a better facility for teaching. - Supporting clubs to apply for external funding to improve their facilities. 	PPS5	LBS	<p>Local Clubs</p> <p>Local Leagues</p> <p>NGBs</p>	<p>Short-Medium (0-3yrs)</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Policy of rest & recovery developed</p> <p>Improved pitch quality & fewer games cancelled due to pitch problems</p> <p>More clubs securing external funding for facility improvement</p>

REF.	PROPOSED ACTION	STRATEGY REFERENCE	LEAD	PARTNER AGENCIES	TIMESCALE	MEASURE OF SUCCESS
A9	<p>Undertake specific qualitative improvements at the following sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peckham Rye Park – new permanent changing facility to replace temporary accommodation • Homestall Road – replace the current changing facility with the temporary changing facility located on Peckham Rye Park • Belair Park – new 6 team changing facility for dual football (winter) and cricket (summer) usage; • Construct a new third generation STP at Greendale, to be managed by Dulwich Hamlet FC, and ensure it is available for community hire; • Work with Streatham & Marlborough Cricket Club to construct a new changing pavilion. 	PPS5	LBS	<p>Funding agencies</p> <p>Clubs</p>	Ongoing	All qualitative improvements undertaken and hierarchy sites meet minimum quality standards as outlined in Section 6

REF.	PROPOSED ACTION	STRATEGY REFERENCE	LEAD	PARTNER AGENCIES	TIMESCALE	MEASURE OF SUCCESS
A10	<p>Take a more strategic approach to pitch allocation by giving priority for hire of level 1 flagship site pitches to Charter Standard/Clubmark accredited clubs. These should be in the form of season-long leases.</p> <p>Increase the number of 'sessions' when teams can hire pitches on peak days (Sundays). It is recommended that 3 separate allocations be made available – at 10am, midday and 2pm.</p> <p>Develop an online pitch booking facility for level 2 and level 3 pitch sites which are made available on a first come, first served basis.</p>	PPS8 PPS10	LBS Leisure	London FA Clubs CSPAN	Medium-long (3-5 yrs)	All level 1 flagship sites used by Charter Standard/Clubmark clubs
A11	<p>Examine the feasibility of granting long-term leases on the following sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pynners – Caribb Youth • Homestall Road – Athenlay FC <p>The lease terms and conditions should set a target timescale for each club to apply for and secure external funding to carry out site improvements in relation to pitch improvements and changing facilities.</p>	PPS8	LBS	Clubs Legal	Medium-long	Sites leased to clubs and quality improvements undertaken

REF.	PROPOSED ACTION	STRATEGY REFERENCE	LEAD	PARTNER AGENCIES	TIMESCALE	MEASURE OF SUCCESS
A12	<p>Develop a joint working group to promote partnership working across the Council and with key stakeholders in the provision of playing pitches.</p> <p>Focus should be on agreeing, developing and delivering planned improvements</p>	PPS8	LBS Leisure	<p>CSPAN</p> <p>Providers</p> <p>Clubs & leagues</p>	Short-Medium (0-3yrs)	Joint working group established
A13	<p>Support proposals to increase small-sided STP provision in the borough and ensure that programming builds in time for local club training sessions.</p> <p>Consider the disposal of the STP facility at St Pauls. This is due to the lack of future management presence (meaning that the asset cannot be protected) and the new facility at Mellish Fields. Any capital receipt should be ring-fenced and invested into increasing provision elsewhere in the Borough (eg Greendale)</p>	<p>PPS9</p> <p>PPS11</p>	LBS Leisure & Planning	Private sector	Short- Medium (0-3yrs)	<p>Provision of a dedicated 5-a-side facility in Southwark</p> <p>More clubs hiring facilities</p>

Appendix A

The table below provides a summary of the site visits which were carried out by pmpgenesis. The quality information gathered in this process informed the carrying capacity used in the PPM.

A

Site	Ownership	Actual nr of adult football pitches	Actual nr of junior football pitches	Actual nr of mini football pitches	Actual nr of cricket pitches	Actual nr of adult rugby union pitches	Actual nr of junior rugby union pitches	Actual nr of adult grass hockey pitches	Actual nr of STPs	Site visit comments
Belair Park	Local Authority	3	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	Parking at the site is good. However, the length of grass on the pitches was deemed to be too long, although this could be due to the time of year when the sites were visited. The quality of the wicket was also identified as poor, particularly as the season was about to commence at the time of the site visit.
Burgess Park	Local Authority	2	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	Pitches are good quality and appear to be well maintained. The STP is third generation turf and of good quality. Changing rooms are good quality, although there are slightly away from the pitches.
Dulwich College	Other Education	3	0	0	6	3	0	0	2	High quality, private site with a significant

Site	Ownership	Actual nr of adult football pitches	Actual nr of junior football pitches	Actual nr of mini football pitches	Actual nr of cricket pitches	Actual nr of adult rugby union pitches	Actual nr of junior rugby union pitches	Actual nr of adult grass hockey pitches	Actual nr of STPs	Site visit comments
										number of pitches. Maintained to a high standard, however not available to the community (although STP is hired by Tulse Hill Hockey Club).
Edwards Alleynians OB Club	Private	3	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	Good quality, well maintained site with excellent changing accommodation.
Gallery Road	Local Authority	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	Changing accommodation is average quality and the parking on the site is limited, particularly during times of high usage. In terms of the pitches, the length of grass is poor and there is a significant gradient on the pitches, which are also uneven in places. There is also limited space for training off the main pitch areas.
Greendale	Private	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	Disused STP adjacent to Dulwich Hamlet FC. In need of replacement.
Griffin Sports Ground	Local Authority	2	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	Overall a good quality site with good quality pitches. However, the wickets are not protected in the off-season.
Herne Hill Stadium	Local Authority	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Herne Hill Stadium has a pitch in the middle which is hired out to the community. The pitch is well maintained, although is uneven in places.

Site	Ownership	Actual nr of adult football pitches	Actual nr of junior football pitches	Actual nr of mini football pitches	Actual nr of cricket pitches	Actual nr of adult rugby union pitches	Actual nr of junior rugby union pitches	Actual nr of adult grass hockey pitches	Actual nr of STPs	Site visit comments
Homestall Road	Local Authority	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	Site is leased to Athenlay. The changing facility is extremely poor quality, with no connection to running water. The changing is also not divided. The pitches were also identified as being of average quality and in need of improvement, with substantial bare areas and long grass. They are also uneven and in need of levelling.
James Allens Girls School	Other Education	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	Good quality site and well maintained. The STP is used by Tulse Hill Women's Hockey Club.
Malborough Cricket Club	Private/Corporate	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	Overall site is good quality and well maintained.
Mary Datchelor	Local Authority	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	Overall site is good quality, although there is a slope to the site which is not ideal. Well maintained and no evidence of dog fouling and other unofficial use.
Old Alleynians Sports Ground	Private	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	High quality site with excellent changing provision. The pitches are maintained to a high quality, although there is some unevenness in places. In addition, the quality of the cricket wickets could be improved.
Peckham Rye Park	Local Authority	2	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	Quality of pitches is good and they appear to be well maintained. The changing is currently temporary and could be upgraded to a

Site	Ownership	Actual nr of adult football pitches	Actual nr of junior football pitches	Actual nr of mini football pitches	Actual nr of cricket pitches	Actual nr of adult rugby union pitches	Actual nr of junior rugby union pitches	Actual nr of adult grass hockey pitches	Actual nr of STPs	Site visit comments
										permanent facility. The posts were identified as being in need of replacement.
Pynners Close Playing Fields	Local Authority	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Changing accommodation is average quality and needs to be upgraded. Parking is sufficient, although could be put under pressure at times of peak usage. There is a considerable slope on the pitches, which are also uneven in places. However, as the site is privately owned and operated there is no evidence of informal use, dog-fouling etc. which affects the quality of the surface.
South Bank University Ground (Turney Road)	Other Education	5	1	3	3	0	0	0	0	Good quality site, which is well maintained. All possible space on the site is allocated to pitches, which puts pitches under greater pressure.
Southwark Park	Local Authority	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	STP has just been replaced and surrounding athletics track upgraded. Site is now of good quality, although parking is limited. As would be expected for a publicly accessible park, there are areas of informal usage and damage to the surface. Also, the goalposts need to be replaced.

Site	Ownership	Actual nr of adult football pitches	Actual nr of junior football pitches	Actual nr of mini football pitches	Actual nr of cricket pitches	Actual nr of adult rugby union pitches	Actual nr of junior rugby union pitches	Actual nr of adult grass hockey pitches	Actual nr of STPs	Site visit comments
Southwark Sports Ground	Local Authority	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	The changing accommodation at the site is poor quality and in need of upgrade. There was also evidence of vandalism to the building, which increases the overall perception of the site's poor quality. The unevenness of the pitches is an issue, although they are well covered with grass with little evidence of unofficial use or dog fouling.
St Pauls STP	Local Authority	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	STP is poor quality and in need of replacement. No changing adjacent to site.
Surrey Docks Stadium (Fisher Athletic FC)	Private	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Disused stadium pitch which used to be home of Fisher Athletic FC – there is no evidence of continued use and this is a pitch which could be brought back into usage.
Dulwich Park	Local Authority	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	Good quality pitches with decent changing facilities. Well maintained. Dog fouling on the pitches was identified as an issue at this site.
Honor Oak Park	Local Authority	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Pitches are ok and appear to be well maintained.
Mellish Fields	Local authority	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	Good quality site adjacent to Surrey Docks Stadium. Good levels of grass coverage.
Dulwich Sports Club	Private	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	Private sports club with excellent quality pitches

Site	Ownership	Actual nr of adult football pitches	Actual nr of junior football pitches	Actual nr of mini football pitches	Actual nr of cricket pitches	Actual nr of adult rugby union pitches	Actual nr of junior rugby union pitches	Actual nr of adult grass hockey pitches	Actual nr of STPs	Site visit comments and ancillary provision.