



COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

ASSESSMENT REPORT JULY 2014

Integrity, Innovation, Inspiration

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COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

This is the Playing Pitch Assessment Report prepared by Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP) for Coventry City Council (CCC).

The Assessment Report provides the detail as to what playing pitches and outdoors sports facilities exist in the city, their condition, spread and overall quality. It also considers the demand for facilities based on population spread and planned growth, and further takes account of other factors such as health and economic deprivation. The Playing Pitch Strategy (which will follow this Assessment Report) will provide direction on the future provision of accessible, high quality, financially sustainable facilities for sport and physical activity in Coventry.

The initial research for this study was undertaken during the period April 2010 to October 2010. However, significant political decisions at a national level embodied in the Comprehensive Spending Review of October 2010 (such as the cessation of the Government's Building Schools for the Future programme and cessation of funding for School Sport Partnerships) and the City Council's required response to this, delayed this study for a period of time. Therefore, this Assessment Report builds upon this original research, through updated consultation with key organisations and further reviews and refinements of the facility audit results.

This report presents a supply and demand assessment of playing pitch facilities in accordance with Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a playing pitch strategy. It has been followed to develop a clear picture of the balance between the local supply of, and demand for, playing pitches and other outdoor sports facilities.

The guidance details a stepped approach to developing a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS). These steps are separated into five distinct sections:

- ◀ Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach (Step 1)
- ◀ Stage B: Gather information and views on the supply of and demand for provision (Steps 2 & 3)
- ◀ Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views (Steps 4, 5 & 6)
- ◀ Stage D: Develop the strategy (Steps 7 & 8)
- ◀ Stage E: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up to date (Steps 9 & 10)

Stages A-C are covered in this report.

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1.1: Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach (Step 1)

To ensure that the PPS will be robust and successful and make the best use of available resources, the following steps were followed:

Why the PPS is being developed

The PPS is a key evidence base for Coventry's Sports Strategy. There are already a number of significant developments proposed that impact upon playing pitch provision. The PPS will provide a framework to help inform decision making with regard to planning applications both now and in the future. Other key drivers for the Playing Pitch Strategy include:

- ◀ National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs) have specific plans for the development of their sports nationally and locally and these need to be explored and accommodated within the Strategy.
- ◀ Sport England has announced that they will not accept an application for funding from local authorities whose Playing Pitch Strategy is out of date (five years if the audit/assessment is regularly updated). Coventry has a number of applications that have been delayed by this requirement.

The overall objectives of this Study are:

- ◀ To assess current and future needs and demands for playing pitches.
- ◀ To seek to protect, enhance and improve existing playing pitch stock.
- ◀ To provide an evidence base to update planning policy to ensure there is adequate provision of new pitches in relation to new housing developments. It is also intended to inform planning applications that affect the loss of pitches and outdoor sports facilities.
- ◀ To provide an evidence base to support future funding bids for new and improved pitch provision.
- ◀ To improve community access to educational and privately owned pitches.

Sports Vision

The PPS sits within the context of an eight-point Sports Vision for Coventry with the following aspirations:

- ◀ To inspire more people within the city to take up and regularly take part in sport.
- ◀ To provide a wide range of high quality and exciting sporting opportunities and experiences.
- ◀ To inspire more people to volunteer, coach and be facilitators of sport.
- ◀ To identify and support talented athletes to reach their sporting potential.
- ◀ To provide a range of modern, accessible and high quality sports facilities in the city.
- ◀ To attract high profile sporting events to the city and to celebrate sporting achievement.
- ◀ To grow and promote sport in the city through effective partnerships.
- ◀ For sport to make Coventry a better place to live, work and visit.

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The Sports Strategy sets the following vision aim that relates to sports facilities and which should be adopted for the Playing Pitch Strategy:

To provide a range of modern, accessible and high quality [outdoor] sports facilities in the city

The following strategic objectives have also been set:

- ◀ To develop city centre sports and leisure facilities that are accessible, high quality, sustainable and of significance to the Midlands.
- ◀ To invest in the development of sports and leisure facilities where justified by demand, strategic programming needs and financial sustainability
- ◀ To provide accessible and high quality outdoor sports, leisure and ancillary facilities across the city
- ◀ To support sports clubs, venues and schools to secure a total of £4m of investment into their community sports facilities.
- ◀ To partner with National Governing Bodies and funding agencies to support the development of facilities for Coventry's key sports.

Management arrangements

The project team (KKP) is responsible for the day to day development of the PPS and ensuring that tasks are completed in line with the project plan. In order to ensure effective and continued PPS management, it has been supported by the Steering Group comprising representatives from Coventry City Council, NGBs and Sport England. This Steering Group is and has been responsible for the vision and direction of the PPS from a strategic perspective and for supporting, checking and challenging the work of the project team. It will be important for the Steering Group to continue once the PPS has been finalised for several reasons, including a continuing responsibility to:

- ◀ Be a champion for playing pitch provision in the area and promote the value and importance of the PPS.
- ◀ Ensure implementation of the PPS's recommendations and action plan.
- ◀ Monitor and evaluate the outcomes of the PPS.
- ◀ Ensure that the PPS is kept up to date and refreshed.

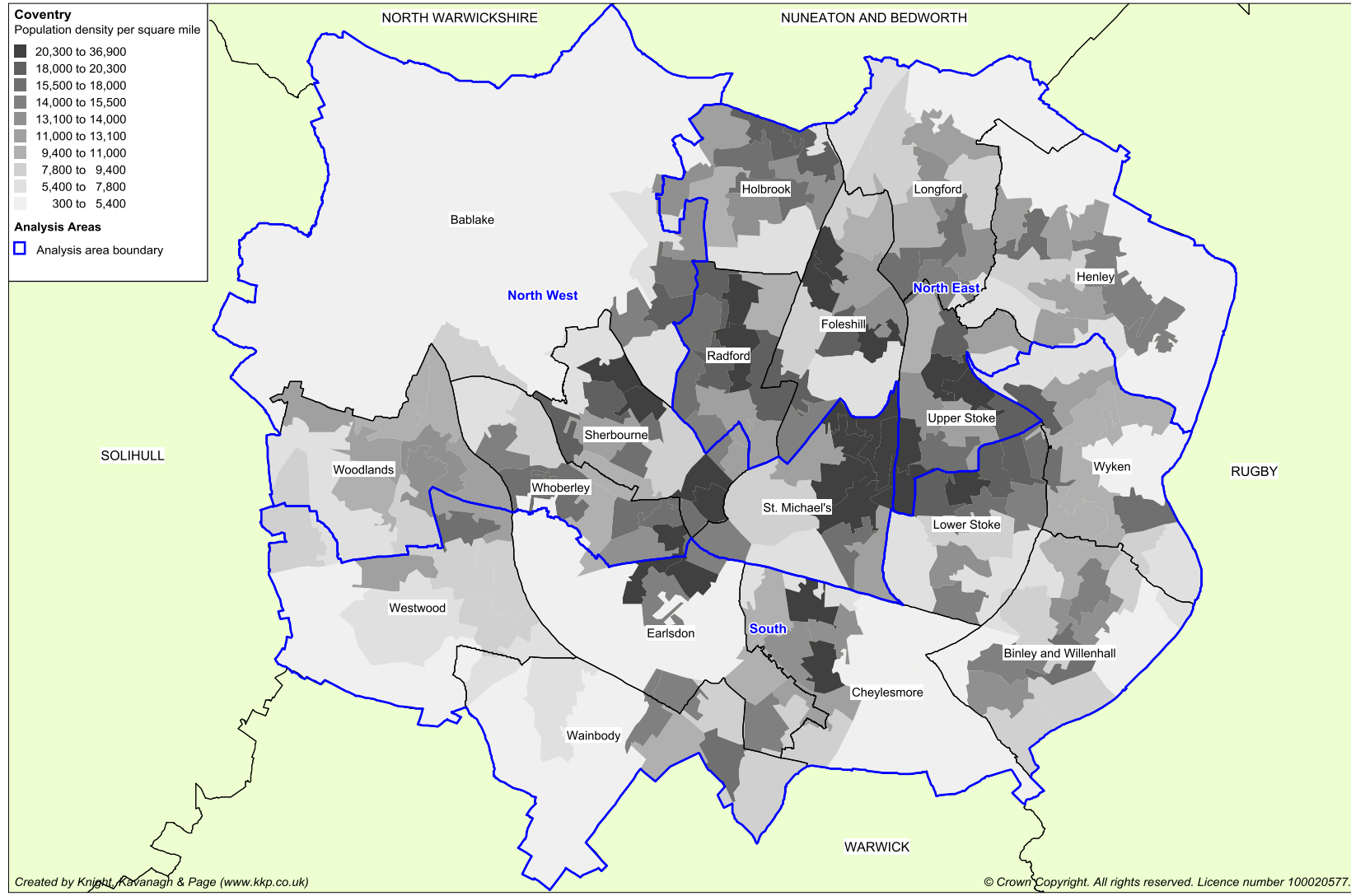
Assessment data was identified and predominately collated/updated between July and September 2013.

Consistent with the Coventry Greenspace Strategy 2008-2018, for the purposes of this Strategy Coventry has been divided into three analysis areas (shown overleaf). Analysis areas allow a more localised assessment of provision and examination of playing pitch surplus and deficiencies at a local level. Use of analysis areas also allows local circumstances and issues to be taken into account. Hence the analysis areas are as follows:

- ◀ North West
- ◀ North East
- ◀ South

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Figure 1.1 Map of analysis areas



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1.2: Stage B: Gather information and views on the supply of and demand for provision

It is essential that a PPS is based on the most accurate and up-to-date information available for the supply of and demand for playing pitches. This section provides details about how this information has been gathered in Coventry.

Step 2: Gather supply information and views – an audit of playing pitches

PPS guidance uses the following definitions of a playing pitch and playing field. These definitions are set out by the Government in the 2010 'Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order'.¹

- ◀ **Playing pitch** – a delineated area which is used for association football, rugby, cricket, hockey, lacrosse, rounders, baseball, softball, American football, Australian football, Gaelic football, shinty, hurling, polo or cycle polo.
- ◀ **Playing field** – the whole of a site which encompasses at least one playing pitch.

This PPS counts individual grass pitches (as a delineated area) as the basic unit of supply. The definition of a playing pitch also includes Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs).

Quantity

All playing pitches are included irrespective of ownership, management and use. Playing pitch sites were initially identified using Sport England's Active Places web based database. The Council and NGBs supported the process by checking and updating this initial data. This was also verified against club information supplied by local leagues. For each site the following details were recorded in the project database (which will be supplied as an electronic file):

- ◀ Site name, address (including postcode) and location
- ◀ Ownership and management type
- ◀ Security of tenure
- ◀ Total number, type and quality of pitches
- ◀ A description and assessment of the quality of the ancillary facilities

Accessibility

Not all pitches offer the same level of access to the community. The ownership and accessibility of playing pitches also influences their actual availability for community use. Each site is assigned a level of community use as follows:

- ◀ **Community use** - pitches in public, voluntary, private or commercial ownership or management (including education sites) recorded as being available for hire and currently in use by teams playing in community leagues.
- ◀ **Available but unused** - pitches that are available for hire but are not currently used by teams which play in community leagues; this most often applies to school sites but can also apply to sites which are expensive to hire.
- ◀ **No community use** - pitches which as a matter of policy or practice are not available for hire or used by teams playing in community leagues. This should include professional club pitches along with some semi-professional club pitches, where play is restricted to the first or second team.

¹ www.sportengland.org>Facilities and Planning> Planning Applications

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Quality

The capacity of pitches to regularly provide for competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by their quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of a pitch affects the playing experience and people's enjoyment of a sport. In extreme circumstances it can result in a pitch being unable to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off peak times.

It is not just the quality of the pitch itself which has an effect on its capacity but also the quality, standard and range of ancillary facilities. The quality of both the pitch and ancillary facilities will determine whether a pitch is able to contribute to meeting demand from various groups and for different levels and types of play.

The quality of all pitches identified in the audit and the ancillary facilities supporting them are assessed regardless of ownership, management or availability. Along with capturing any details specific to the individual pitches and sites, a quality rating is recorded within the audit for each pitch.

These ratings are used to help estimate the capacity of each pitch to accommodate competitive and other play within the supply and demand assessment.

In addition to undertaking non-technical assessments (using the templates provided within the guidance and as determined by NGBs), users and providers were also consulted on the quality and in some instances the quality rating was adjusted to reflect this.

Step 3: Gather demand information and views

Presenting an accurate picture of current demand for playing pitches (i.e. recording how and when pitches are used) is important when undertaking a supply and demand assessment. Demand for playing pitches in Coventry tends to fall within the following categories:

- ◀ Organised competitive play
- ◀ Organised training
- ◀ Informal play

In addition, unmet and displaced demand for provision is also identified on a sport by sport basis. Unmet demand is defined as the number of additional teams that could be fielded if access to a sufficient number of pitches (and ancillary facilities) was available. Displaced demand refers to teams that are generated from residents of the area but due to any number of factors do not currently play within the area.

Alongside current demand, it is important for a PPS to assess whether the future demand for playing pitches can be met. Using population projections, an estimate can be made of the likely future demand for playing pitches in Coventry.

The resident population in Coventry is recorded as 316,900². By 2021, the City's population is projected to increase by 47,425 (equivalent to a percentage of 15%) to 364,325.

Other information sources that were used to help identify future demand include:

² Source: Office for National Statistics 2011 Census and 2011 Interim Based Population Projections

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- ◀ Recent trends in the participation in playing pitch sports.
- ◀ The nature of the current and likely future population and their propensity to participate in pitch sports.
- ◀ Feedback from pitch sports clubs on their plans to develop additional teams.
- ◀ Any local and NGB specific sports development targets (e.g. increase in participation).

Current and future demand for playing pitches is presented on a sport by sport basis within the relevant sections of this report.

A variety of consultation methods were used to collate demand information. Face to face consultation was carried out with key clubs from each sport. This allowed for the collection of detailed demand information and an exploration of key issues to be interrogated and more accurately assessed.

For data analysis purposes an online survey (converted to postal if required) was utilised. This was sent to all clubs not covered by face to face consultation.

A variety of consultation methods were used to collate information about leagues, clubs, county associations and national/regional governing bodies of sport. These were generally as follows:

Table 1.1: Consultation - methods and response rates

Sport	Response rate	Methods of consultation
Football	51% club and 78% team	Face to face consultation with key clubs and the Birmingham County FA (BCFA) was undertaken. Using contact details provided by CCC and BCFA, a paper/electronic questionnaire was distributed to all football clubs playing in Coventry. A club response rate of 51% and a team response rate of 78% was achieved.
Cricket	83%	In 2010, face to face consultation was undertaken with key clubs and a survey was distributed to the remainder of cricket clubs. A response rate of 83% was achieved. In 2013, KKP distributed a league survey to the main four leagues servicing the city; Warwickshire Cricket League, Last Man Stands, Coventry 40 Over and Coventry 20 Over. A league response rate of 50% was achieved (Warwickshire Cricket League and Last Man Stands responded).
Rugby Union	100%	Consultation with the RFU identified 13 active clubs in Coventry, playing on pitches located at sports clubs and schools. In 2013, the Steering Group agreed that all clubs would be consulted with again, via an online survey, to supersede the previous study in 2010. A 100% response rate was achieved.

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Sport	Response rate	Methods of consultation
Hockey	83%	There are five active clubs playing hockey in the City Four out of the five clubs, as well as the England Hockey Relationship Manager, were consulted in 2013. KKP could not secure direct consultation with Coventry and North Warwickshire HC in 2013; however, consultation was completed with the Club in the previous study in 2010.
Other sports (bowls, golf, tennis, netball, athletics, Gaelic football, American football, kabaddi, lacrosse, softball and extreme sports)	59%	A postal questionnaire was distributed to all other sports playing in Coventry. Completed for the previous study, a response rate of 59% was obtained and key clubs/leagues were met with face to face or consulted with via telephone. Contact details were provided by a number of sources including CCC and leagues. In 2013, consultation was undertaken with key officers at CCC as well as research to update the relevant key issues.
Secondary schools	90%	Consultation was undertaken with all secondary schools in the city. In addition, site audits were also completed.
Primary schools	54%	In 2013, an electronic survey was distributed to all primary schools in the City. A response rate of 54% was achieved.

Local sports development officers, county associations and regional governing body officers advised which of the clubs to include in the face to face consultation. Sport England was also included within the consultation process prior to the project commencing. Issues identified by clubs returning questionnaires were followed up by telephone or face to face interviews.

1.3: Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views

Supply and demand information gathered within Section B was used to assess the adequacy of playing pitch provision in Coventry. It focused on how much use each site could potentially accommodate (on an area by area basis) compared to how much use is currently taking place.

Step 4: Understand the situation at individual sites

Qualitative pitch ratings are linked to a pitch capacity rating derived from NGB guidance and tailored to suit a local area. The quality and use of each pitch is assessed against the recommended pitch capacity to indicate how many match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket) a pitch could accommodate.

This is compared to the number of matches actually taking place and categorised as follows, to identify:

Potential spare capacity: Play is below the level the site could sustain.	
At capacity: Play is at a level the site can sustain.	
Overused: Play exceeds the level the site can sustain.	

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Step 5(a): Develop the current picture of provision

Once capacity is determined on a site by site basis, actual spare capacity is calculated on an area by area basis via further interrogation of temporal demand. Although this may have been identified, it does not necessarily mean that there is surplus provision. For example, spare capacity may not be available when it is needed or the site may be retained in a 'strategic reserve' to enable pitch rotation to reduce wear and tear.

Capacity ratings assist in the identification of sites for improvement/development, rationalisation, decommissioning and disposal.

Step 5(b): Develop the future picture of provision - scenario testing

Modelling scenarios to assess whether existing provision can cater for unmet, displaced and future demand is made after the capacity analysis. This will also include, for example, removing sites with unsecured community use to demonstrate the impact this would have if these sites were to be decommissioned in the future.

Step 6: Identify the key findings and issues

By completing Steps 1-5 it is possible to identify several findings and issues relating to the supply, demand and adequacy of playing pitch provision in Coventry. This report seeks to identify and present the key findings and issues, which should now be checked, challenged and agreed by the Steering Group prior to development of the Strategy (Section D).

The following sections summarise the local administration of the main grass pitch and non-pitch outdoor sports in Coventry. Each provides a quantitative summary of provision and a map showing the distribution of facilities. It also provides information about the availability of facilities to/for the local community and, the governing body of each sport and regional strategic plans (where they exist). Local league details are provided in order to outline the competitive structure for each sport. The findings of club consultation and key issues for each sport are summarised.

KKP has covered all sports for which there is currently organised, structured play on outdoor playing pitches. It is recognised that there are additional outdoor sports that could also be developed using pitch facilities in Coventry. Section C is structured to provide a sport by sport analysis as follows:

- Part 2: Football
- Part 3: Cricket
- Part 4: Rugby
- Part 5: Hockey
- Part 6: Other sports

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PART 2: FOOTBALL

2.1: Introduction

The Birmingham County Football Association (BCFA) is the primary organisation responsible for the development and governance of the sport across the County, with 75 leagues supporting 4,000 teams. The geographical boundaries of the County dictate that the CFA works across three County Sports Partnerships (Black Country; Birmingham; Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire) and services 12 Local Authorities (Dudley, Walsall, Sandwell, Wolverhampton, Birmingham, Coventry, Solihull, Nuneaton and Bedworth, Warwick, Stratford upon Avon, North Warwickshire and Rugby).

It is also responsible for the administration, in terms of discipline, rules and regulations, county cups and representative matches, development of clubs and facilities, referees, coaching courses and delivering national football schemes.

Consultation

KKP has identified a total of 411³ football teams currently playing on sites located in Coventry. All clubs were consulted via face to face, by telephone or via a survey which achieved a team response rate of 78%. Key clubs were consulted through a face to face meeting during a site visit.

Birmingham County Football Association County Plan 2011 – 2015

BCFA has outlined key priorities that are embedded into its 2013-2014 (Delivery Plan) vision for success which includes:

- ◀ Growth and retention
- ◀ Raising standards
- ◀ Better players
- ◀ Running the game
- ◀ Workforce
- ◀ Facilities and investment

BCFA's vision is:

"To be the leading sporting organisation providing safe, enjoyable, accessible opportunities for everyone to participate at all levels of the game".

Investment in improved facilities is a key aspect of delivering the strategic goals. In order to achieve this BCFA has committed to work with Coventry City Council on the update of its Playing Pitch Assessment as well as prioritising projects in Coventry which include Coventry Copeswood.

³ Teams are taken from the 2012/13 season.

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FA investment

Since 2004 there has been a number of capital investment programmes funded by the FA (total grant cost £1.88m) across four sites in Coventry:

Site	Description	Total Project Costs (£)	Grant Request (£)	Date
John White Community Centre	Binley Recreation Ground changing rooms	581,653	337,696	2004/2005
Centre AT7	New AGP	31,380	18,255	March 2005
Bluecoat School	New AGP and changing rooms	854,350	491,410	September 2006
Moat House Leisure and Neighbourhood Centre	New AGP and changing rooms	10,850,000	794,408	November 2007
Holbrooks Park	New changing rooms and pitch improvements	481,320	242,660	Completed October 2013

In addition to the above, the FA has confirmed investment in Copeswood (2013-14).

Football Participation Report (FPR) for Coventry Season 12/13

Football participation rates estimate the number of individuals playing football (expressed as a percentage of the population). The following table summarises conversion rates for Coventry from the last three seasons, compared with national and West Midlands averages. The conversion rates provide a useful baseline for Coventry.

Table 2.1: Summary of participation trends 11/12 – 12/13 (conversion rates)⁴

	Adult male (11v11)%	Adult female (11v11)%	Youth male (11v11)%	Youth female (11v11)%	Mini soccer %
Coventry 11/12	4.0	0.2	23.0	1.9	8.3
Coventry 12/13	5.5	0.2	21.2	1.4	7.6
West Midlands 11/12	4.5	0.3	21.1	2.3	9.0
West Midlands 12/13	4.6	0.3	21.4	2.4	9.4

Red - indicates figures below the regional average.

Green - indicates figures above the regional average.

The conversion rate in Coventry in season 12/13 for adult male football is higher than the regional average. However, adult female, youth male, youth female and mini soccer are lower than regional averages. Adult male football has increased by 1.5% since season 11/12 which exceeds the regional trend. Youth male, youth female and mini soccer conversion rates have decreased since season 11/12.

⁴ Football Participation Report Coventry Season 12/13

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Further analysis of the trends over the last three years illustrated by the FPR data, highlights a number of key trends, which should be considered in the context of this report and the subsequent strategy:

- ◀ Adult male (11v11) conversion rates show an increase of 1.5% since season 11//12.
- ◀ Adult female (11v11) conversion rates have remained the same since season 11//12.
- ◀ Youth male (11v11) conversion rates show a decrease of 1.8% since season 11//12.
- ◀ Youth female (11v11) conversion rates also show a marginal decrease by 0.5% since season 11/12.
- ◀ Mini soccer conversion rates show a decrease of 0.7% since season 11/12.

2.3: Development

The FA's FPR data identifies that adult male football has increased in Coventry (1.5% since season 11/12). However, consultation presents a varied view in that the Coventry and Central Warwickshire Sunday League (CCWSL) has experienced a decrease of two teams since June 2010 and the Coventry Alliance Football League (CAFL) membership levels have remained the same over the previous three years.

Charter Standard

The FA has developed a Charter Standard accreditation scheme for clubs which provides a nationally recognised quality control 'kitemark'. There are a number of proactive development minded clubs in Coventry, which have achieved Charter Standard status and are recognised as supporting the development of the sport across the city. There are 35 clubs in Coventry which have achieved Charter Standard. The levels obtained by these clubs are detailed in the table below⁵:

Standard	Coventry		England	
	Number	%	Number	%
Community Club	1	0.5%	613	2.2
Development Club	2	1.0%	510	1.8
Charter Standard	32	15.3%	5680	20.0
Total	35	16.8%	6803	24.0

The FA Participation Report (season 2012/13) identifies 82.9% of youth and mini soccer teams in Coventry play within a club of Charter Standard status. This compares to a national average of 78.4% with a National Game Strategy target of 75% of youth and mini-soccer teams playing within a Charter Standard Club by 2015. Nevertheless, 16.8% of the total clubs in Coventry achieving a Community, Development and Charter Standard Club status is recognised by The FA as a healthy percentage.

Furthermore, six leagues servicing the Coventry area also have the Charter Standard league accreditation.

⁵ Data source: Coventry Football Participation Report Season 12/13

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Professional clubs

Coventry City Football Club (also known as the Sky Blues) is a professional club that previously played its home matches at the Ricoh Arena (which has a capacity of 32,609). However, following a rent dispute with the ground's owners, the club has opted to play its home fixtures at Northampton Town's Sixfields Stadium as of the 2013/14 season (this is outside of the assessment area).

Sky Blues in the Community

Sky Blues in the Community is a former department of Coventry City Football Club formed in 1993 to deliver football in the community initiatives on behalf of the club.

The organisation became a registered charity in December 2008, financially independent from the football club and governed by an independent Board of Trustees. The charity aims to create opportunities through sport and recreation to engage, motivate and inspire people from all sections of the community. It further seeks to encourage people to play sport, particularly those from excluded or harder to reach groups (i.e. women, ethnic minorities and disabled people), to encourage children and adults to lead a healthy lifestyle and to provide player pathways.

It is evident that the Sky Blues in the Community programmes contribute to demand in relation to access to facilities. As a result, informal discussions have taken place about building a full size 3G (3rd Generation) AGP to enhance facilities in the north of the city.

FA facilities fund

This new Fund will replace the previous Facilities Scheme, Build the Game and the Premier League Community Facility Fund. The Fund will be open to football clubs, schools, councils and local sports associations to support the development of new or refurbished local football facilities.

It is hoped that this Fund can improve the connection between professional football clubs and their local communities, particularly in the most deprived areas of the country, through the professional clubs' community trusts' outreach work.

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Semi-professional clubs

The senior non-league divisions in England administered by the FA are often known as football's 'Pyramid'. Promotion at all levels within the National League System is subject to FA Ground Grading requirements, as well as league specific rules and requirements. There are a small number of teams in Coventry playing a higher standard of football in the city which are summarised in the table below:

Table 2.2: Teams in Coventry participating in the National League System

Club name	National League System	Ground grading
Coventry City FC	Football League	Specific Football League ground requirements ⁶
Coventry Sphinx FC	Step 5	Grade F
Alvis FC, Alvis Sporting Club FC, Coventry Copsewood FC, Coventry Spartans FC, Coventry Spires FC	Step 6	Grade G

Teams competing in the National League System must meet stringent FA Ground Grading requirements respective to the 'step' they are competing in. These clubs contribute to the wider development of football in Coventry and some operate extensive junior sections.

Two clubs; Coventry Copsewood and Alvis Sporting Club FC are competing in the Midland Combination Premier Division in season 13/14 (Step 6). If promoted to a Step 5 league, the home ground of the respective club must meet FA Ground Grade F requirements. Alvis Sporting Club FC has recently been granted planning permission for floodlights and has secured funding for stadia improvements.

Women's and girls' football

The audit identifies five female (and two girl youth) teams playing on pitches in Coventry. Coventry City Ladies FC competes at the highest level of women's football winter pyramid in England – FA Women's Premier League. The club trains at Coventry University Sports Ground and plays matches at Bedworth United FC which is located outside Coventry in Bedworth due to ground requirements. It should be noted that junior girls are playing competitively in mini soccer teams up to the age of ten years old.

Analysis of club survey responses identifies three clubs; Copsewood Sports and Social Club, Chapelsfield Colts and Whitley Juniors that have plans to increase the number of their teams (one team per club). In addition, GNP Sports FC anticipates that any increase will be accommodated at its existing home ground.

Sky Blues in the Community has plans to deliver programmes specifically aimed at junior girls in Coventry. It is likely this may have an impact on girls' participation.

⁶ http://www.football-league.co.uk/regulations/20130704/appendix-1_2293633_2128158

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Disability football

The Birmingham Ability Counts League (BACL) is the only disability league within the County that provides regular competition for disability football clubs. Fixtures take place on two Sundays a month at the Aston Villa FC Academy. There are six disability teams participating in the League from Coventry. There is also disability football played at the Alan Higgs Sports Centre.

2.2: Current provision

The audit identifies a total of 297 football pitches in Coventry. Of these, 209 are available, at some level, for community use (although not necessarily used).

Table 2.3: Summary of pitches available for community use

Analysis area	Number of pitches				
	Adult football	Youth football			Mini soccer
	(11v11)	7v7	9v9	11v11	5v5
North East	30	7	2	6	2
North West	25	3	14	3	11
South	67	5	14	4	16
COVENTRY	122	15	30	13	29

The methodology defines the minimum size of a senior football pitch as being 90m x 46m. The minimum size of a youth pitch is 70m x 42m and a mini pitch 46m x 27m.

All analysis areas across the city are serviced by pitch provision, with the south analysis area accommodating the largest number of senior, junior and mini pitches.

There are a number of pitches which have been excluded from the supply and demand analysis because there are no teams currently playing on the site and/or because they are not available for community use (predominately primarily school sites). These sites could offer potential capacity/additional pitches if the current supply does not meet expressed demand in the city. However, the quality of these sites varies and therefore site inspections and any necessary remedial work should be carried out before allowing teams to use these sites. Furthermore, at school sites, appropriate community use agreements should be developed.

Of the pitches not in community use, senior pitches tend to be located at secondary schools or professional/semi-professional clubs and junior/mini pitches at primary schools. This indicates that there may be potential to increase community access to school sites to help alleviate overplay from the existing sites.

Accessibility

Figure 2.1 below indicates that there are areas of high density across Coventry without access to football provision. Generally areas to the south of the city have more provision, although there are more settlements in these areas. There are fewer pitches in the north east analysis area available for community use. However, there are 18 sites located in this area which do not currently have football pitches available for community use.

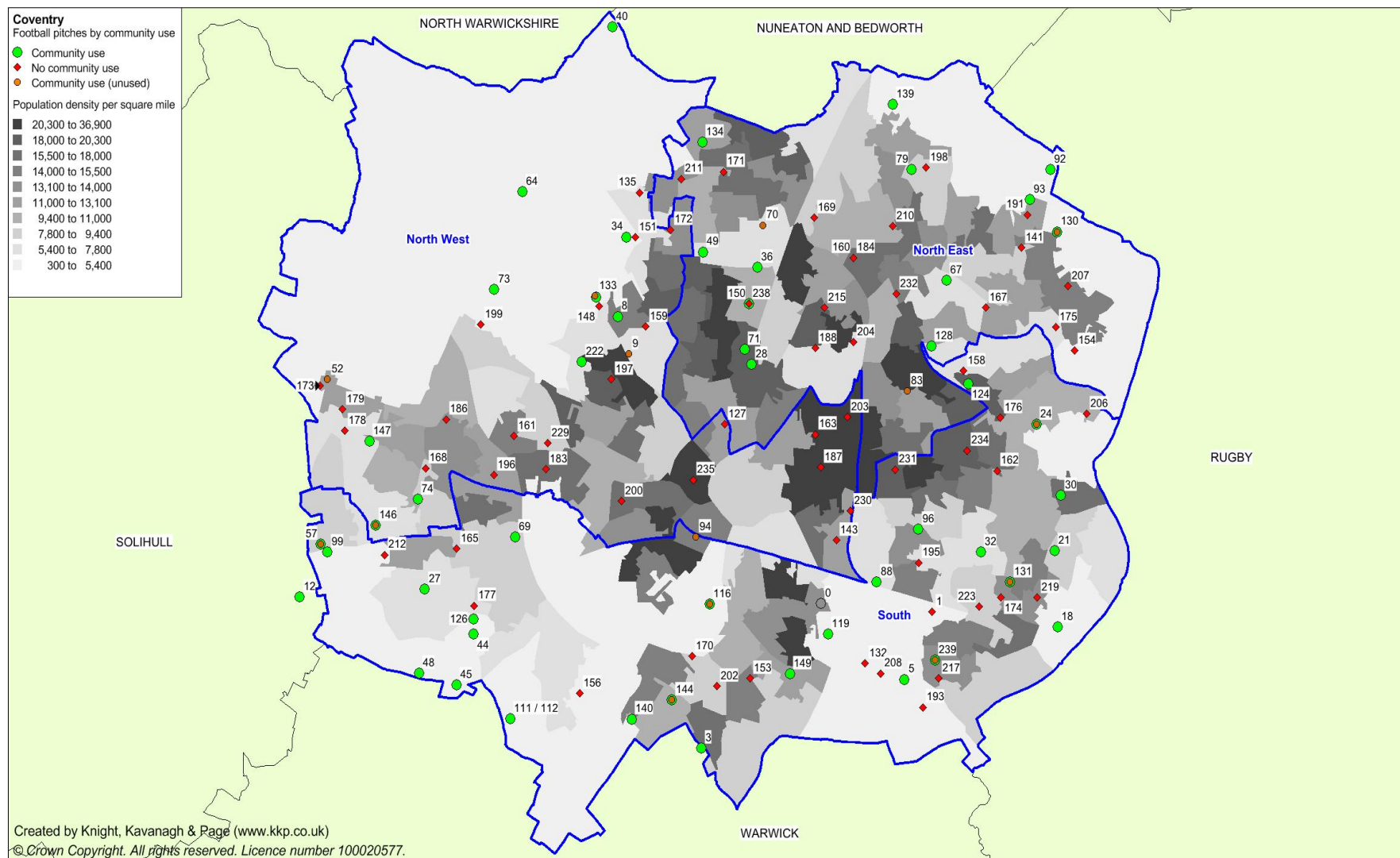
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The majority of players tend to play for teams with home grounds close to where they live and will only travel locally. However, players aspiring to play at clubs that are perceived to offer a higher standard of experience are willing to travel further (i.e. five miles plus) to play.

The football club survey reveals 65% of clubs report their players travel two to five miles to access provision. This suggests that in general terms, players travel locally to compete. In addition, clubs in Coventry also tend to access training provision locally (predominately AGPs) and do not generally travel outside the city to do so.

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Figure 2.1: Location of football pitches in Coventry



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Please refer to Table 2.10 for the key to the map.

Ownership/management

There are 13 sites providing football pitches for community use which are managed directly by Coventry City Council's Parks Service. The City Council hires its pitches directly to the main leagues in the city; Coventry & District Sunday League (CDSL), Coventry and Central Warwickshire League (CCWL) and the John Bryan Minor League (JBML). The leagues are then responsible for allocating teams to individual sites. As a result, the City Council has developed a positive relationship with the leagues.

Pitches are available for community use from the first Saturday in September to mid-May. The following leagues block-book local authority pitches:

Table 2.5: Usage of Coventry City Council football sites

Local authority site	Block booked by leagues			Available for community use ⁷
	CDSL	CCWL	JBML	
War Memorial Park	✓	✓	✓	✓
Coundon Hall Park	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sowe Common	✓		✓	✓
Whitley Common	✓		✓	✓
Longford Park	✓			✓
Eastern Green Recreation			✓	✓
Cashes Park			✓	✓
Floyds Field	✓		✓	✓
Jardine Crescent			✓	✓
Holbrook Park			✓	✓

Cancellations on City Council pitches are carried out on a site by site basis. Where possible, blanket cancellations are not undertaken. Grounds maintenance staff inspects the pitches on a Thursday and leagues are informed accordingly. However, in some instances the match cancellation is left to the referee's discretion. The City Council recognises there is a need to formalise its cancellation process through the implementation of a cancellation policy.

Self-management schemes

The City Council operates self-management agreements at four sites in the City;

- ✦ Chace Avenue (leased to Whitley Juniors FC which expires in 2031),
- ✦ Westwood Heath Road (leased to Westwood Rangers FC which expires in 2031),
- ✦ Jardine Crescent – playing fields and changing room (leased to Mount Nod Highway Junior FC, but the lease has expired and discussions are taking place to renew)
- ✦ Owenford Road – adjoining Joseph Cash School (leased to Coventry Jaguar FC which has also expired but discussions are taking place to renew).
- ✦ Having agreements in place helps to provide security of tenure for clubs using the sites.

⁷ No pitches are available for community use on a Sunday before 1:30 pm due to league commitments.

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There are also a number of clubs that hold agreements with other bodies and these include:

- ◀ Christ the King FC lease Bablake Playing Fields from Coventry Schools Association on a lease that expires in 2036.
- ◀ Copsewood Sports and Social Club leases its site from British Land (via Goodmans) on a 99 year lease, which is due to expire in 2109.

Pricing

High costs for hiring football pitches could prevent teams from forming and in some instances hinder the long term sustainability of existing clubs. Comparisons of City Council pitch hire costs (based on 2013/14 charges) against neighbouring authorities North Warwickshire, Warwick and Solihull is summarised below:

In Coventry, the cost of hiring a senior pitch (both with and without changing) is less expensive than in Warwick but more expensive than in North Warwickshire and Solihull (where comparable). The cost of hiring a junior pitch in Coventry is the second most expensive compared to its neighbouring authorities.

League consultation identifies that pitch costs are perceived to be reasonable and considered value for money.

Pitch quality

The quality of football pitches in Coventry has been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments as determined by The FA) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

Analysis of the club survey responses⁸ found that in relation to quality:

- ◀ 19% of respondents consider quality to be 'much better' or 'slightly better' than in the 2011/12 season.
- ◀ Just over half (51%) of respondents consider the quality to be no different than in the 2011/12 season.
- ◀ Nearly one third (30.2%) of respondents consider quality to be slightly/much poorer than in 2011/12 season.

The main reasons identified by the club questionnaires for increases in quality to designated pitches are primarily due to increases in ground improvement works (often by a designated groundsman), which have improved pitch quality. There is a perception that some key sites are overplayed and that pitches are not adequately rested. This, for example, includes Sowe Common. Analysis on pitch capacity is analysed further in the football section of the report.

⁸ Rounded to the nearest ten

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Reasons identified by the questionnaires for decreases in quality to designated pitches include:

- ✦ Perceived lack of regular maintenance (line marking) throughout the season.
- ✦ Poor weather conditions.
- ✦ Overplay of pitches.

Table 2.6: Pitch quality assessments

Analysis area	Senior pitches			Youth pitches			Mini pitches		
	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor
North East	22	8	0	11	2	2	4	3	0
North West	13	12	0	7	13	0	4	6	0
South	54	13	0	14	9	0	6	6	0
COVENTRY	89	33	0	32	24	2	14	15	0

The table summarises the quality of all pitches with community use. Two youth pitches were assessed as 'poor' quality. Increasing pitch quality of 'poor' and 'standard' rated pitches could help to accommodate further play.

Ancillary facilities

Consultation suggests that improvements to changing accommodation have not kept pace with improvements to pitches. However, over a third (37%) of clubs rate the quality of changing accommodation as good quality, nearly three out of ten clubs (27%) rate their changing provision as acceptable and nearly a quarter of clubs (21%) rate their changing provision as poor quality. Whilst stakeholders recognise that pitch improvements are the main priority, wherever possible, this should be supported by improvements to the changing accommodation. There is a need to address poor changing facilities to support the retention of adult players and also to recruit more women and girl players for whom many sites are currently inaccessible because of poor quality facilities.

Clubs also stressed the importance of offering good quality changing accommodation to support the recruitment and retention of players at junior levels. In particular, junior clubs wishing to introduce girls' teams highlight the need for better changing facilities (i.e. the need for segregated changing and larger changing rooms).

Facility development

The BCFA reports that the City has been proactive and successful in achieving Football Foundation funding for facility developments. The BCFA believe that there is a need for more money to be spent on key club sites rather than single pitch sites, which only benefit one or two teams. The BCFA is keen to support municipal pitches, which offer value for money, particularly those that support 9v9 and women and girls' football.

Multi-pitch sites

There are four sites in Coventry that accommodate a large number of pitches and are classified as multi pitch sites; Sowe Common, Coundon Hall Park, War Memorial Park and University of Warwick (Cryfield Sports Pitches). These sites are of strategic importance and accommodate a large number of the City's football clubs. In addition to recent investment (e.g. at War Memorial Park, Holbrooks Park), there are further plans to

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improve a range of provision throughout the city. Specific club developments and plans are detailed below, as identified during consultation.

Table 2.7: Facility development plans

Site	Development
Copsewood Sports and Social Club	The Club has reclaimed 585 square meters of additional grassed area and has plans to improve the drainage of existing pitches.
Triumph Athletic Football Club (Standard Triumph Club)	Informal discussions with other users of the site (rugby and cricket) are taking place to improve and develop the site. Planning permission and external funding may be required.
Jaguar Daimler FC	The Club is seeking external funding to replace the surface of its multi-use games area
Mount Nod FC	The Club has aspirations to refurbish the clubhouse facility.
Coventry Copsewood JFC	Plans to redevelop its changing rooms and clubhouse facility recently confirmed by the FA.
Whitley Juniors FC	The site is located on a floodplain and was flooded in February 2013. As a result, the Club is looking at options to install flood barriers and defences and this may involve raising the clubhouse facility. The Club also has plans to replace its changing rooms, which are dated, with new changing rooms that would be flood proof. However, external funding and planning permission would be required. It is in the process of converting its 7v7 pitch into a 9v9 pitch to accommodate the FA's new forms of the game. The site is solely used for football but the Club is keen to explore opportunities to accommodate other sports.
Owenford Road	The site is owned by CCC and is leased to Coventry Jaguar Youth FC. The Club has aspirations to develop the facilities (i.e. pitches and clubhouse facility on site) and create a homeground for its teams.
Holbrooks Park	A total of approximately £500k has been invested in Holbrooks Park to provide two new changing rooms, kitchen facilities and to improve the provision of a drainage system, two senior and four 9v9 grass football pitches. Construction works were completed in October 2013 with limited use of the pitches approved until the drainage runs have grassed over. A Football Development Plan has been developed by the City Council and BCFA to support the increased use of these pitches. Funding of £242k was awarded from the Football Foundation.

Coventry Colliery Sports and Social Club

Due to financial pressures, Coventry Colliery Sports and Social Club (CCSSC), as an entity, ceased to exist in 2012. Operations are now managed by administrators but club members still own and operate on the sports field and clubhouse at the site. The administrators are trying to sell a proportion of the site closest to Thompson Road, however, as the site is covenanted for sporting purposes and it has a Public Right Of Way running through it, selling options are limited. CCSSC are attempting to set up a Trust which would raise funds to buy the site from the administrators.

CCSSC comprises a cricket pitch, two 11v11 football pitches, grass training area and two bowling greens. Changing provision at the site is limited and users often have to stagger kick off times. There is a home, away and an officials changing room.

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The football pitches are the home ground of Coventry Colliery FC, which fields two senior teams. Its playing membership has remained the same over the previous three years. The pitches are of adequate quality but can become unplayable after heavy rainfall. The Club commissioned a soil analysis in May 2013, which identified a number of actions that require attention. As a result, the Club has submitted a funding bid to Sport England's Inspired Facilities Fund for £15k of pitch improvements and £12k for machinery.

Coundon Court FC

The Club fields 17 teams and uses three sites in Coventry; Holyfast Primary School, Coundon Court School and Coventry Colliery Sports and Social Club.

The pitches at Holyfast Primary School are rated by the Club as being of poor quality, with complaints of an uneven pitch surface and poor drainage during the playing season. In addition, the school pitches will be closed in the 2014/15 season due to capital improvements to the school. As a result, the Club has played some matches at Alvis Sports and Social Club.

The Club is expanding and hopes to field an additional three teams playing on 9v9 pitches, which will require access to an appropriately sized pitch. Furthermore, it will run a boys youth and a women's team that will play at Coventry Colliery FC.

Coventrians FC

The Club was established in 2007 and has had organised growth since its formation. There are a total of 19 teams ranging from mini soccer through to an open age team, including; a women's team and two disability teams. The Club has an arrangement with Coventrians Rugby Club to use its site which comprises one senior rugby pitch, two 11v11 pitches and a bowling green (crown green).

The Club's playing membership has increased from three teams in 2007 to 15 teams in 2011. It has an aim to have 35 teams by 2017 which will include women's, girls and disability teams. The Club seeks to find a home ground that is large enough to accommodate all of its teams. This new ground would need to comprise two senior pitches, two 9v9 and two 7v7 sized pitches.

Alvis FC

The Club has aspirations to develop a 3G AGP and a new changing facility. The Club would like to enter its first team into the West Midlands Combination League, which is a possibility having secured planning permission and Football Stadia improvement funding for floodlights.

The Club has a large junior section of 15 teams, which play at either Alvis Sports and Social Club or Finham Park School. The Club operates a strict rotation and maintenance policy to ensure pitches do not get overused. There is a small designated floodlit training area on site, however, due to poor drainage, it can only be utilised for half of the season.

Accessibility of quality training facilities at peak times is a concern for the Club, with teams using four different AGPs across the City. The Club uses training facilities at Coventry University, St. Finbarrs School, King Henry School and Coventry Blue Coat School.

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Coventry Jaguar Youth FC

The Club has 20 teams ranging from U7 to U18 teams that play across 5 different sites in the city. Its home ground is at Owenford Road, which has recently been reconfigured to accommodate a 7v7 sized pitch and a 9v9 sized pitch. The Club expect this to increase the usage of the site and envisage seeding, levelling and drainage works to be required within the next few years, as well as development of appropriate changing facilities. Teams also use pitches at Henley College and Bannerbrook Park, that are of a good quality, and Cash's Park and Coundon Hall Park where the quality of the pitches are affected by drainage issues.

The Club aspire for team growth and development through a central venue. There is scope at Owenford Road for an additional pitch, however, investment is required. Ideally the Club wish to relocate to a larger site within a three to four mile radius of Owenford Road.

2.4: Demand

In Coventry, the club to team ratio is 1:2.5 (i.e. each club runs on average 2.5 teams). This compares to a national ratio of 1:3.0 and a regional ratio of 1:2.5. In general terms, this is lower than national and the same as the regional averages. However, it should be noted that the low ratio is attributed to the high number of single team clubs in the city.

A total of 411 teams are identified as playing in Coventry.

Table 2.8: Summary of competitive teams currently playing on grass pitches

Analysis area	Adult teams		Youth teams		Mini teams
	Senior men	Senior women	Junior boys	Junior girls	Mini soccer
North East	27	0	22	0	11
North West	29	0	42	0	29
South	120	5	76	2	48
COVENTRY	176	5	140	2	88

Most teams (276 in total, 67% overall) play in the south area of Coventry, where there is a high level of adult, youth and mini football teams. The north east area has the lowest number of teams across all team ages, most significantly by 20 junior boys' teams and 18 mini teams.

Almost two thirds of clubs (62%) report that the number of senior teams competing has remained static for the previous three years. This is also mirrored across youth football with six out of ten clubs (60%) reporting that membership levels have remained static over the previous three years. Nearly half of clubs (49%) fielding mini soccer teams also report static membership levels over the past three years. However, it is likely that football participation trends across all categories will increase across Coventry with over a third of clubs (35%) citing plans to increase the number of teams.

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League summary⁹

There are a number of leagues active in the Coventry area that are serving a range of teams, from 16 teams in the Coventry and Central Warwickshire Sunday League (season 2010 - 2011) to 414 teams in the John Bryan Coventry Minor Football League (season 2010 – 2011), albeit that not all these teams play in Coventry.

Consultation was carried out with a cross-section of leagues (those with a large number of teams playing in the city) and key findings are summarised in the table below:

Name of league	Comments
Coventry & District Sunday League (CDSL)	<p>CDSL accommodates 78 senior teams across six divisions. The league reports there has been a decrease in the number of teams in comparison to the season 07/08 by circa 12 teams. The league believes this is largely due to the financial cost of running a team. If the number of teams continues to decrease it may need to restructure and reduce its divisions. It operates a 15 to 20 mile radial catchment of Coventry City Centre.</p> <p>The league utilises five CCC central venue sites; Sowe Common, Coundon Hall Park, Longford Park, War Memorial Park and Floyds Fields. The league considers CCC pitches to be of poor quality due to a lack of pre and post season maintenance, particularly in goal mouth areas.</p> <p>It also expresses concerns regarding regular vandalism to the changing provision at Sowe Common, which has a long history of vandalism.</p>
Coventry & Central Warwickshire Sunday League (CCWSL)	<p>The CCWSL accommodates 14 teams across two divisions. The league reports a decrease of two teams since June 2010 and claims one team moved to play in the CDSL and the other disbanded. Matches are played on a Sunday (11:00 am kick off). The League block books local authority pitches at Coundon Hall Park, Tamworth Road, War Memorial Park and Kenilworth Road and allocates teams to pitches accordingly. League requirements of competing teams include access to changing provision on site (including home, away and officials' facilities).</p> <p>The league reports there has been a reduction in the number of playable local authority owned pitches due to events being hosted on football pitches. This has resulted in damage to the playing surface and often resulted in closure of pitches.</p> <p>Another local authority owned site, Coundon Hall Park, is rated by the League as poor quality due to poor drainage which results in pitches being waterlogged and unplayable during the season from November to February. However, there is planned investment through Section 106 monies into addressing these pitch drainage problems.</p>

⁹ League participation numbers are from the season 2010/11

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Name of league	Comments
John Bryan Coventry Minor Football League (CMFL)	<p>CMFL is the largest junior and mini soccer league in the city. It has circa 410 mini, junior and youth teams (74 clubs, of which approximately 32 are from Coventry). It operates within a 16 mile radial catchment of Coventry City Council's offices (Earl Street, Coventry). With the exception of the U7 and U8 divisions (which are played on a Saturday) the remaining age groups play their matches on a Sunday (11:00 or 13:30 kick off times). It reports that towards the end of the season some matches (i.e. those that have been cancelled during the season and need to be re-arranged) are played mid-week. During season 2012/13 the League hires Coventry City Council football pitches across ten sites; Cash's Park, Coundon Hall Park, Eastern Green Rec, Floyds Fields, Holbrooks Park, Jardine Crescent, War Memorial Park, Sowe Common, Spencer Park and Whitley Common. As of this season (13/14), the League will access 9v9 provision at Coundon Hall Park (two 9v9 pitches), War Memorial Park (two 9v9 pitches) and Floyds Field (one 9v9 pitch). It believes this will satisfy its current 9v9 demand for this season.</p> <p>It reports that a common issue across local authority sites is a lack of drainage, which subsequently impacts on the playability and quality of pitches, particularly at Coundon Hall Park and Floyds Field.</p>
Coventry Alliance Football League (CAFL)	<p>The League accommodates 68 teams (across five divisions) of which approximately 90% are residing in the Coventry area. Matches are played on a Saturday afternoon (usually 14:00 kick off, although the League may consider kick off times to take place between 12:00 and 15:00). No waiting list is expressed and it does not anticipate a significant increase in demand as it has had static membership levels over the previous three years. It has a grounds committee that is responsible for ensuring that all participating teams have access to suitable facilities, including access to changing facilities at the beginning of each season. Teams competing in its Premier Division must also have access to an official's room. During season 12/13 the League reports matches were cancelled for approximately five weeks (during October to December) due to waterlogged pitches.</p> <p>Consultation suggests the quality of pitches at private/work sites are of a higher standard than local authority pitches, for example Folly Lane FC. The League would like to see less litter and dog foul, which would help to improve the overall quality of pitches.</p>
Midland Combination League	<p>The League has 72 teams spread across five divisions, four teams of which play on pitches in the Coventry area. The League does not operate a waiting list although it has had a surplus of entries in the last few seasons. Teams play on Saturday afternoons and mid-week evenings and teams must meet a quality standard, set by the League. It is reported that some clubs who wish to join the League struggle to find a ground with the appropriate facilities, with a particular issue for clubs with shared showers, as the League does not allow this and so teams are refused entry to the League.</p>

KKP attempted to consult with Midland Football Alliance League, but did not receive a response.

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Latent demand

Latent demand is defined as the number of teams that could be fielded if there were sufficient pitches. Consultation identifies that seven clubs consulted consider they have latent demand. This equates to the need for five 11v11 pitches, 1.5 9v9 pitches, 1.5 7v7 pitches and one 5v5 pitch in Coventry.

The table below summaries the latent demand identified by consultation.

Table 2.9: Summary of latent demand expressed by clubs

Club	Latent demand	Pitch requirement	
		Number	Type
Clifford Park Rangers FC	1 Youth team (11v11)	0.5	11v11
Copsewood Sports and Social Club	1 senior women's team (11v11) 1 youth team (11v11)	1	11v11
Coventry Athletic	1 senior mens team (11v11)	0.5	11v11
Shepherd Football Club	2 senior mens team (11v11)	1	11v11
GNP Sports FC	2 mini teams (5v5, 9v9) 1 youth team (11v11)	0.5	5v5
		0.5	9v9
		0.5	11v11
Coventry Copsewood JFC	1 senior mens team (11v11) 1 junior team (9v9) 1 mini team (7v7)	0.5	11v11
		0.5	9v9
		0.5	7v7
Whitley Juniors	3 youth teams (2 11v11 and 1 9v9 team) 4 mini teams (2 5v5 and 2 7v7)	1	11v11
		0.5	9v9
		1	5v5
		1	7v7
Totals		5	11v11
		1.5	9v9
		1.5	7v7
		1	5v5

In addition to latent demand identified by clubs, Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in football but are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 3,456 people. 32.0% of the population that would like to participate in football is the segment 'Jamie - sports team lads'. Of the 3,456 people, 266 (7.7%) are females; the largest segment of which is 'Leanne - young busy mums and their supportive college mates'.

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2.4: Capacity analysis

The capacity of pitches to regularly provide for competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of a pitch affects the playing experience and people's enjoyment of playing football. In extreme circumstances it can result in the inability of the pitch to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off peak times.

As a guide, the FA has set a standard number of matches that each grass pitch type should be able to accommodate without adversely affecting its current quality (pitch capacity).

Taking into consideration the guidelines on capacity the following was concluded:

Senior pitches		Youth pitches		Mini pitches	
Pitch quality	Matches per week	Pitch quality	Matches per week	Pitch quality	Matches per week
Good	3	Good	4	Good	6
Standard	2	Standard	2	Standard	4
Poor	1	Poor	1	Poor	2

The table overleaf applies the above pitch ratings against the actual level of weekly play recorded to determine a capacity rating as follows:

Potential capacity	Play is below the level the site could sustain
At capacity	Play matches the level the site can sustain
Overused	Play exceeds the level the site can sustain

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Table 2.10: Football pitch capacity analysis

PPS Site ID	Site name	Ownership	Community use	Analysis area	Pitch type	Pitch Size	Agreed quality rating	No. of pitches	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Recommended Site capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating
36	Coventrians Rugby Club	Club	Yes	North East	Adult		Standard	1	1.5	2	-0.5
49	Dunlop Sports And Social Club	Club	Yes	North East	Adult		Good	1	2	3	-1
49	Dunlop Sports And Social Club	Club	Yes	North East	Youth	(7v7)	Good	2	2	8	-6
40	Coventry Colliery Sports & Social Club	Club	Yes	North West	Adult		Standard	2	2	4	-2
64	Hawkesmill Sports Club	Club	Yes	North West	Adult		Good	2	3	6	-3
64	Hawkesmill Sports Club	Club	Yes	North West	Youth	(7v7)	Good	1	1	4	-3
73	Jaguar Leisure Centre	Club	Yes	North West	Adult		Good	1	1.5	3	-1.5
3	Alvis Sports Club	Club	Yes	South	Adult		Good	1	1.5	3	-1.5
3	Alvis Sports Club	Club	Yes	South	Youth	(11v11)	Good	1	2	4	-2
3	Alvis Sports Club	Club	Yes	South	Youth	(7v7)	Good	1	1	4	-3
3	Alvis Sports Club	Club	Yes	South	Youth	(9v9)	Good	1	1	4	-3
27	Canley Sports And Social Club	Club	Yes	South	Adult		Standard	1	1	2	-1
32	Copsewood Sports and Social Club	Club	Yes	South	Adult		Good	3	7.5	9	-1.5
32	Copsewood Sports and Social Club	Club	Yes	South	Youth	(7v7)	Good	1	4.5	4	0.5
32	Copsewood Sports and Social Club	Club	Yes	South	Youth	(9v9)	Good	2	3.5	8	-4.5
44	Coventry Technical Rugby Club	Club	Yes	South	Adult		Good	1	0.5	3	-2.5
69	Highway Sports & Social Club	Club	Yes	South	Adult		Good	1	1.5	3	-1.5
88	Peugeot Sports and Social Club	Club	Yes	South	Adult		Good	1	2.5	3	-0.5
96	Sphinx Sports & Social Club	Club	Yes	South	Adult		Standard	3	5.5	6	-0.5
96	Sphinx Sports & Social Club	Club	Yes	South	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	6	3	24	-21
67	Henley College Coventry	College	Yes	North East	Adult		Good	2	1.5	6	-4.5
28	Cashs Park	Council	Yes	North East	Adult		Standard	1	2	2	0
79	Longford Park	Council	Yes	North East	Adult		Good	2	0.5	6	-5.5
92	Sowe Common North	Council	Yes	North East	Adult		Good	5	3.5	15	-11.5
92	Sowe Common North	Council	Yes	North East	Mini	(7v7)	Good	2	2	12	-10
92	Sowe Common North	Council	Yes	North East	Youth	(9v9)	Good	1	1.5	4	-2.5
93	Sowe Common South	Council	Yes	North East	Adult		Standard	1	1	2	-1
238	Owenford Road	Council	Yes	North East	Youth	(7v7)	Poor	1	0.5	1	-0.5
238	Owenford Road	Council	Yes	North East	Youth	(9v9)	Poor	1	1	1	0
34	Coundon Hall Park	Council	Yes	North West	Adult		Standard	9	6	18	-12
34	Coundon Hall Park	Council	Yes	North West	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	2	1.5	8	-6.5
34	Coundon Hall Park	Council	Yes	North West	Youth	(11v11)	Standard	2	3.5	4	-0.5
34	Coundon Hall Park	Council	Yes	North West	Youth	(7v7)	Standard	2	1	4	-3
34	Coundon Hall Park	Council	Yes	North West	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	3	3	6	-3
74	Jardine Crescent	Council	Yes	North West	Mini	(7v7)	Good	2	2.5	12	-9.5
74	Jardine Crescent	Council	Yes	North West	Youth	(9v9)	Good	2	3	8	-5
5	Ashington Grove	Council	Yes	South	Adult		Standard	2	4.5	4	0.5
18	Binley Recreation Ground	Council	Yes	South	Adult		Standard	1	1	2	-1
18	Binley Recreation Ground	Council	Yes	South	Youth	(7v7)	Standard	2	1.5	4	-2.5
18	Binley Recreation Ground	Council	Yes	South	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	2	1.5	4	-2.5
21	Bredon Avenue Playing Field	Council	Yes	South	Adult		Good	1	0.5	3	-2.5
21	Bredon Avenue Playing Field	Council	Yes	South	Youth	(9v9)	Good	1	2	4	-2
30	Clifford Bridge Rd Playing Fields	Council	Yes	South	Adult		Standard	1	0.5	2	-1.5
57	Floyds Fields	Council	Yes	South	Adult		Good	4	1	12	-11
116	War Memorial Park	Council	Yes	South	Adult		Good	9	3.5	27	-23.5
116	War Memorial Park	Council	Yes	South	Mini	(7v7)	Good	3	1.5	18	-16.5
119	Whitley Common	Council	Yes	South	Adult		Good	3	2	9	-7
119	Whitley Common	Council	Yes	South	Mini	(7v7)	Good	1	0.5	6	-5.5
126	Xcel Leisure Centre	Council	Yes	South	Adult		Standard	2	1	4	-3

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PPS Site ID	Site name	Ownership	Community use	Analysis area	Pitch type	Pitch Size	Agreed quality rating	No. of pitches	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Recommended Site capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating
239	Chace Avenue	Council	Yes	South	Adult		Standard	1	1	2	-1
128	Lyng Hall School	School	Yes	North East	Adult		Standard	2	2.5	4	-1.5
128	Lyng Hall School	School	Yes	North East	Youth	(11v11)	Standard	1	1	2	-1
130	Grace Academy	School	Yes	North East	Adult		Good	2	1	6	-5
134	President Kennedy	School	Yes	North East	Adult		Good	5	0.5	15	-14.5
139	Foxford School	School	Yes	North East	Adult		Standard	3	1	6	-5
139	Foxford School	School	Yes	North East	Youth	(11v11)	Standard	1	0.5	2	-1.5
8	Bablake Playing Fields	School	Yes	North West	Adult		Good	2	6.5	6	0.5
8	Bablake Playing Fields	School	Yes	North West	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	2	6	8	-2
146	Tile Hill Wood School	School	Yes	North West	Adult		Standard	1	1	2	-1
147	Woodlands Academy	School	Yes	North West	Adult		Good	4	6	12	-6
133	Coundon Court School	School	Yes	North West	Youth	(11v11)	Good	1	0.5	4	-3.5
222	Three Spires School(Special MLD)	School	Yes	North West	Youth	(9v9)	Good	1	1	4	-3
24	Caludon Castle Sports Centre	School	Yes	South	Adult		Standard	2	0.5	4	-3.5
131	Ernesford Grange	School	Yes	South	Mini	(7v7)	Good	1	0.5	6	-5.5
131	Ernesford Grange	School	Yes	South	Youth	(11v11)	Good	1	1	4	-3
140	Bishop Ullathorne School	School	Yes	South	Adult		Good	6	2.5	18	-15.5
144	Finham Park Secondary School	School	Yes	South	Adult		Good	5	4	15	-11
149	Howes Primary School	School	Yes	South	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	2	1	4	-3
45	Coventry University (Westwood Heath Campus)	University	Yes	South	Adult		Good	2	4.5	6	-1.5
45	Coventry University (Westwood Heath Campus)	University	Yes	South	Youth	(7v7)	Good	1	3	4	-1
45	Coventry University (Westwood Heath Campus)	University	Yes	South	Youth	(9v9)	Good	1	3	4	-1
111	University Of Warwick (Cryfield Sports Pitches)	University	Yes	South	Adult		Good	6	3	18	-15
48	David Sinclair Goulding Sports Ground	Club	Yes	South	Adult		Good	3	27	9	18
71	Jag Daimler (Middlemarch)	Club	Yes	North East	Adult		Good	1	2	3	-1
71	Jag Daimler (Middlemarch)	Club	Yes	North East	Youth	(11v11)	Good	2	1.5	8	-6.5
99	Standard Triumph Club	Club	Yes	South	Adult		Good	2	4	6	-2
112	University Of Warwick (Westwood Campus)	University	Yes	South	Adult		Good	1	0.5	3	-2.5
124	Wyken Croft Playing Fields	School	Yes	South	Adult		Good	3	2	9	-7
141	Cardinal Wiseman School	School	No	North East	Adult		Standard	1	0	2	-2
141	Cardinal Wiseman School	School	No	North East	Youth	(11v11)	Poor	1	0	1	-1
150	Joseph Cash Primary School	School	No	North East	Adult		Good	1	0	3	-3
150	Joseph Cash Primary School	School	No	North East	Youth	(11v11)	Good	1	0	4	-4
150	Joseph Cash Primary School	School	No	North East	Youth	(9v9)	Good	1	0	4	-4
154	Walsgrave C Of E Primary School	School	No	North East	Youth	(9v9)	Good	1	0	4	-4
160	Good Shepherd Catholic Primary	School	No	North East	Youth	(9v9)	Good	1	0	4	-4
167	Henley Green Primary School	School	No	North East	Youth	(9v9)	Poor	2	0	2	-2
169	Holbrok Primary School	School	No	North East	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	2	0	4	-4
171	Parkgate Primary School	School	No	North East	Adult		Good	1	0	3	-3
171	Parkgate Primary School	School	No	North East	Mini	(7v7)	Good	1	0	4	-4
175	St Peters and St Pauls Primary School	School	No	North East	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	1	0	4	-4
184	Little Heath Primary Sch.	School	No	North East	Youth	(9v9)	Good	1	0	4	-4
188	Broad Heath Primary School	School	No	North East	Youth	(9v9)	Good	1	0	4	-4
191	Potters Green School	School	No	North East	Mini	(7v7)	Good	1	0	4	-4
191	Potters Green School	School	No	North East	Youth	(9v9)	Good	1	0	4	-4
198	Alderman's Green Community	School	No	North East	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	1	0	4	-4
204	Stanton Bridge Primary School	School	No	North East	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	1	0	4	-4

COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

PPS Site ID	Site name	Ownership	Community use	Analysis area	Pitch type	Pitch Size	Agreed quality rating	No. of pitches	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Recommended Site capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating
207	Sir Frank Whittle Primary School	School	No	North East	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	0	2	-2
210	Foleshill Church of England Primary School	School	No	North East	Youth	(9v9)	Good	1	0	4	-4
211	Holy Family Catholic Primary	School	No	North East	Youth	(9v9)	Good	2	0	8	-8
215	St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School	School	No	North East	Mini	(7v7)	Good	1	0	4	-4
232	Courthouse Green Primary School	School	No	North East	Youth	(9v9)	Poor	1	0	1	-1
127	Barr's Hill School	School	No	North West	Youth	(11v11)	Good	1	0	4	-4
135	Cardinal Newman	School	No	North West	Adult		Good	2	0	6	-6
143	Coventry Blue Coat School	School	No	North West	Adult		Good	2	0	6	-6
148	Hollyfast Primary School	School	No	North West	Youth	(9v9)	Good	1	0	4	-4
151	Keresley Grange Primary School	School	No	North West	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	1	0	4	-4
159	Christ the King Catholic Junior	School	No	North West	Mini	(7v7)	Good	2	0	8	-8
161	St John's C of E (VA) Primary School	School	No	North West	Youth	(9v9)	Good	1	0	4	-4
163	St Mary and St Benedict	School	No	North West	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	0	2	-2
168	Limbrick Wood Primary	School	No	North West	Youth	(9v9)	Good	1	0	4	-4
172	Whitmore Park Primary School	School	No	North West	Mini	(7v7)	Good	2	0	8	-8
173	St Andrews C of E Infants	School	No	North West	Mini	(5v5)	Good	1	0	4	-4
178	Mount Nod Primary	School	No	North West	Youth	(9v9)	Good	2	0	8	-8
179	Eastern Green Junior	School	No	North West	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	1	0	4	-4
183	Whoberley Hall	School	No	North West	Youth	(9v9)	Poor	1	0	1	-1
186	Park Hill Primary School	School	No	North West	Youth	(9v9)	Good	2	0	8	-8
187	Southfields Primary School	School	No	North West	Mini	(7v7)	Good	1	0	4	-4
196	St.John Vianney School	School	No	North West	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	0	2	-2
197	Coundon Primary	School	No	North West	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	1	0	4	-4
199	Allesley Primary School	School	No	North West	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	2	0	8	-8
200	All Souls Catholic Primary School	School	No	North West	Youth	(9v9)	Good	2	0	8	-8
203	Frederick Bird Primary School	School	No	North West	Mini	(7v7)	Good	1	0	4	-4
229	St. Christopher Primary School	School	No	North West	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	2	0	4	-4
230	Gosford Park Primary School	School	No	North West	Youth	(9v9)	Good	3	0	12	-12
235	Spon Gate Primary School	School	No	North West	Mini	(7v7)	Good	1	0	4	-4
1	Alan Higgs Centre	Council	No	South	Adult		Good	5	0	8	-8
132	Whitley Academy	School	No	South	Adult		Good	1	0	3	-3
132	Whitley Academy	School	No	South	Youth	(9v9)	Good	1	0	4	-4
153	St Thomas More Catholic Primary School	School	No	South	Youth	(9v9)	Good	1	0	4	-4
156	Cannon Park Primary	School	No	South	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	1	0	4	-4
158	St. John Fisher	School	No	South	Youth	(9v9)	Good	1	0	4	-4
162	Richard Lee Primary School	School	No	South	Youth	(9v9)	Poor	1	0	1	-1
165	Templars Primary School	School	No	South	Mini	(7v7)	Good	1	0	4	-4
170	Stivichall Primary School	School	No	South	Mini	(7v7)	Good	1	0	4	-4
174	Sowe Valley Primary School	School	No	South	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	0	2	-2
176	St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School	School	No	South	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	0	2	-2
177	Charter Primary	School	No	South	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	0	2	-2
193	Baginton Fields School	School	No	South	Youth	(9v9)	Good	1	0	4	-4
195	Aldermoor Farm Primary	School	No	South	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	1	0	4	-4
202	Grange Farm Primary School	School	No	South	Mini	(7v7)	Good	1	0	4	-4
206	Pearl Hyde Primary School	School	No	South	Mini	(7v7)	Good	1	0	4	-4
208	Whitley abbey Primary School	School	No	South	Youth	(9v9)	Poor	1	0	1	-1
212	Leigh Church of England Primary School	School	No	South	Youth	(9v9)	Good	1	0	4	-4

COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

PPS Site ID	Site name	Ownership	Community use	Analysis area	Pitch type	Pitch Size	Agreed quality rating	No. of pitches	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Recommended Site capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating
217	Stretton Church of England Primary School	School	No	South	Youth	(9v9)	Good	1	0	4	-4
219	St Bartholomew's Church of England	School	No	South	Mini	(7v7)	Good	1	0	4	-4
223	Corpus chritsi Catholic Primary School,	School	No	South	Mini	(7v7)	Poor	1	0	4	-4
231	Sacred Heart Primary School	School	No	South	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	0	2	-2
234	Ravensdale Primary School	School	No	South	Youth	(9v9)	Good	1	0	4	-4

There are also two adult and two youth (11v11) pitches located at Bannerbrook Park. This site falls just outside the South Analysis Area but is used by teams based in Coventry.

PPS Site ID	Site name	Ownership	Community use	Analysis Area	Pitch type	Pitch type	Agreed quality rating	No. of pitches	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Recommended Site capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating
12	Bannerbrook Park	Council	Yes	Outside	Adult		Good	2	3	6	-3
12	Bannerbrook Park	Council	Yes	Outside	Youth	(11v11)	Good	2	1	8	-7

In addition to the above, there are several sites expressing spare capacity as they are available for community use but currently unused:

Site ID	Site name	Ownership	Analysis area	Pitch type	Agreed quality rating	No. pitches	Level of spare capacity (sessions per week)
83	Morris Park	Council	North East	Adult	Good	2	-6
70	Holbrooks Park	Council	North East	Adult	Good	2	-6
70	Holbrooks Park	Council	North East	Youth 7v7	Good	4	-16
52	Eastern Green Recreation Ground	Council	North West	Youth 9v9	Standard	1	-2
94	Spencer Park	Council	South	Youth 9v9	Good	1	-4
116	War Memorial Park	Council	South	Youth 11v11	Good	1	-4
116	War Memorial Park	Council	South	Youth 9v9	Good	2	-8
239	Chace Avenue	Council	South	Youth 9v9	Standard	2	-4
57	Floyds Fields	Council	South	Mini 7v7	Good	4	-24
130	Grace Academy	School	North East	Youth 11v11	Good	2	-8
9	Bablake School off site Playing Fields	School	North West	Youth 9v9	Good	2	-8
146	Tile Hill Wood School	School	North West	Mini 5v5	Standard	3	-12
146	Tile Hill Wood School	School	North West	Mini 7v7	Standard	2	-8
146	Tile Hill Wood School	School	North West	Youth 9v9	Standard	5	-10
133	Coundon Court School	School	North West	Adult	Good	4	-12
24	Caludon Castle Sports Centre	School	South	Youth 11v11	Standard	1	-2
131	Ernesford Grange	School	South	Adult	Good	2	-6
144	Finham Park Secondary School	School	South	Mini 7v7	Good	1	-6

It should be noted that Holbrooks Park received investment to improve pitch surface quality and enhance ancillary facilities, which were completed in October 2013. The facilities are due to re-open in January 2014 and the whole site will be fully operational for the beginning of the 2014/15 season.

COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

2.5: Supply and demand analysis

Spare capacity

There are significant amounts of spare capacity expressed across football sites in Coventry, as summarised below.

Table 2.12: Spare capacity summary

Area	Senior		Youth		Mini	
	No. of pitches	Match sessions	No. of pitches	Match sessions	No. of pitches	Match sessions
North East	29	63	14	42	2	10
North West	23	37.5	20	41	11	38
South	62	123.5	22	49.5	16	78.5
COVENTRY	114	224	56	132.5	29	126.5

The next step is to ascertain whether or not any identified 'potential capacity' can be deemed 'spare capacity'. There may be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to regularly operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of regular friendly matches and activities that take place but are difficult to quantify on a weekly basis.

Table 2.12: Actual spare capacity summary

Area	Senior		Youth		Mini	
	No. of pitches with spare capacity	No. of pitches unused in the peak period	No. of pitches with spare capacity	No. of pitches unused in the peak period	No. of pitches with spare capacity	No. of pitches unused in the peak period
North East	29	28	14	9.5	2	1
North West	23	21	20	10.5	11	6.5
South	62	56	22	12	16	12
COVENTRY	114	105	56	32	29	19.5

Although there are still significant amounts of actual spare capacity on senior pitches, the number of youth and mini pitches that are actually available within the peak period is dramatically reduced.

Overplay

Only four sites are overplayed in Coventry; Ashington Grove, Bablake Playing Fields, Copsewood Sports and Social Club (all by 0.5 sessions per week) and David Sinclair Goulding Sports Ground (by 18 sessions per week). This is predominately due to the sheer number of fixtures being accommodated and only at Ashington Grove is this due to the quality of the pitches, which are assessed as standard quality.

COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Scenarios

Latent demand

A total of five adult, three youth and one mini pitch is identified as latent demand in Coventry. Given the small amount of spare capacity expressed this could be accommodated on existing stock, albeit further investigation is required to assess the quality and accessibility of these sites to accommodate the demand expressed.

COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Future demand

Future demand can be defined in two ways, through participation increases and using population forecasts. Team generation rates are used below as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future based on population growth.

Table 2.14: Team generation rates

Area	Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate	Future population within age group	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
North East	Senior Mens (16-45)	22,122	27	819	25,335	30.9	3.9
	Senior Women (16-45)	22,208	0	0	25,781	0.0	0.0
	Youth Boys (10-15)	3,859	22	175	4,577	26.1	4.1
	Youth Girls (10-15)	3,745	0	0	4,199	0.0	0.0
	Mini-Soccer Mixed (6-9)	5,472	11	497	7,169	14.4	3.4
North West	Senior Mens (16-45)	13,589	29	469	15,563	33.2	4.2
	Senior Women (16-45)	12,915	0	0	14,993	0.0	0.0
	Youth Boys (10-15)	2,188	42	52	2,595	49.8	7.8
	Youth Girls (10-15)	2,122	0	0	2,379	0.0	0.0
	Mini-Soccer Mixed (6-9)	2,877	29	99	3,769	38.0	9.0
South	Senior Mens (16-45)	6,352	120	53	7,274	137.4	17.4
	Senior Women (16-45)	6,366	5	1273	7,390	5.8	0.8
	Youth Boys (10-15)	1,114	76	15	1,322	90.1	14.1
	Youth Girls (10-15)	1,139	2	569	1,277	2.2	0.2
	Mini-Soccer Mixed (6-9)	1,375	48	29	1,802	62.9	14.9
COVENTRY	Senior Mens (16-45)	42,063	176	1:239	48,172	201.6	25.6
	Senior Women (16-45)	41,489	5	1:8298	48,164	5.8	0.8
	Youth Boys (10-15)	7,161	140	1:51	8,494	166.1	26.1
	Youth Girls (10-15)	7,006	2	1:3503	7,855	2.2	0.2
	Mini-Soccer Mixed (6-9)	9,724	88	1:111	12,739	115.3	27.3

COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

The additional future teams would equate to the need for 13 senior, 13 youth and 14 mini pitches. In the current situation, these teams could be accommodated on the current stock. Albeit further investigation is required to assess the quality and accessibility of these sites to accommodate the demand expressed.

Football - grass pitch summary

- ◀ KKP identified a total of 411 teams playing in Coventry.
- ◀ FA demand trend analysis highlights that participation rates in Coventry (season 12/13) for adult male football and youth male football rates are higher than regional averages. However, adult female, youth female and mini soccer rates are lower national and regional averages. Adult male football has increased by 1.5% since season 11/12 which exceeds the regional and national trends. Youth male, youth female and mini soccer conversion rates have decreased since season 11/12.
- ◀ The audit identifies 297 pitches in Coventry, of which 209 pitches are available for community use. The majority of pitches are located in the south analysis area.
- ◀ There is a lack of education pitches available for community use, most often due to associated access issues and also poor quality pitches.
- ◀ The quality of pitches are mostly 'good' (65%) and only two pitches (both youth) are of 'poor' quality.
- ◀ There is a need to address poor changing facilities to support the retention of adult players and also to recruit more women and girl players for whom many sites are currently inaccessible because of poor quality facilities.
- ◀ Eight pitches across four different sites are overplayed (three sites by 0.5 matches each week and one site by 18 matches each week). The greatest levels of overplay occur in the north west and south analysis areas, which is indicative of the presence of large multi-team clubs in these areas.
- ◀ There is an increasing trend in Coventry towards the development of large clubs with multiple teams. To sustain this level of participation, clubs have had to use facilities across a range of sites.
- ◀ The majority of clubs (62%) report that the number of senior teams competing has remained static over the previous three years. This is also mirrored across youth football with six out of ten clubs (60%) reporting membership levels have remained static over the previous three years. Nearly half of clubs (49%) fielding mini teams also report static membership levels over the previous three years.
- ◀ Seven clubs consulted consider they have latent demand. This equates to the need for five adult, three youth and one mini pitch in Coventry.

COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

2.6 Artificial grass pitches (AGPs)

Several surface types fall into the AGP category. The three main groups are 3rd generation rubber crumb (3G), sand (filled or dressed) and water based.

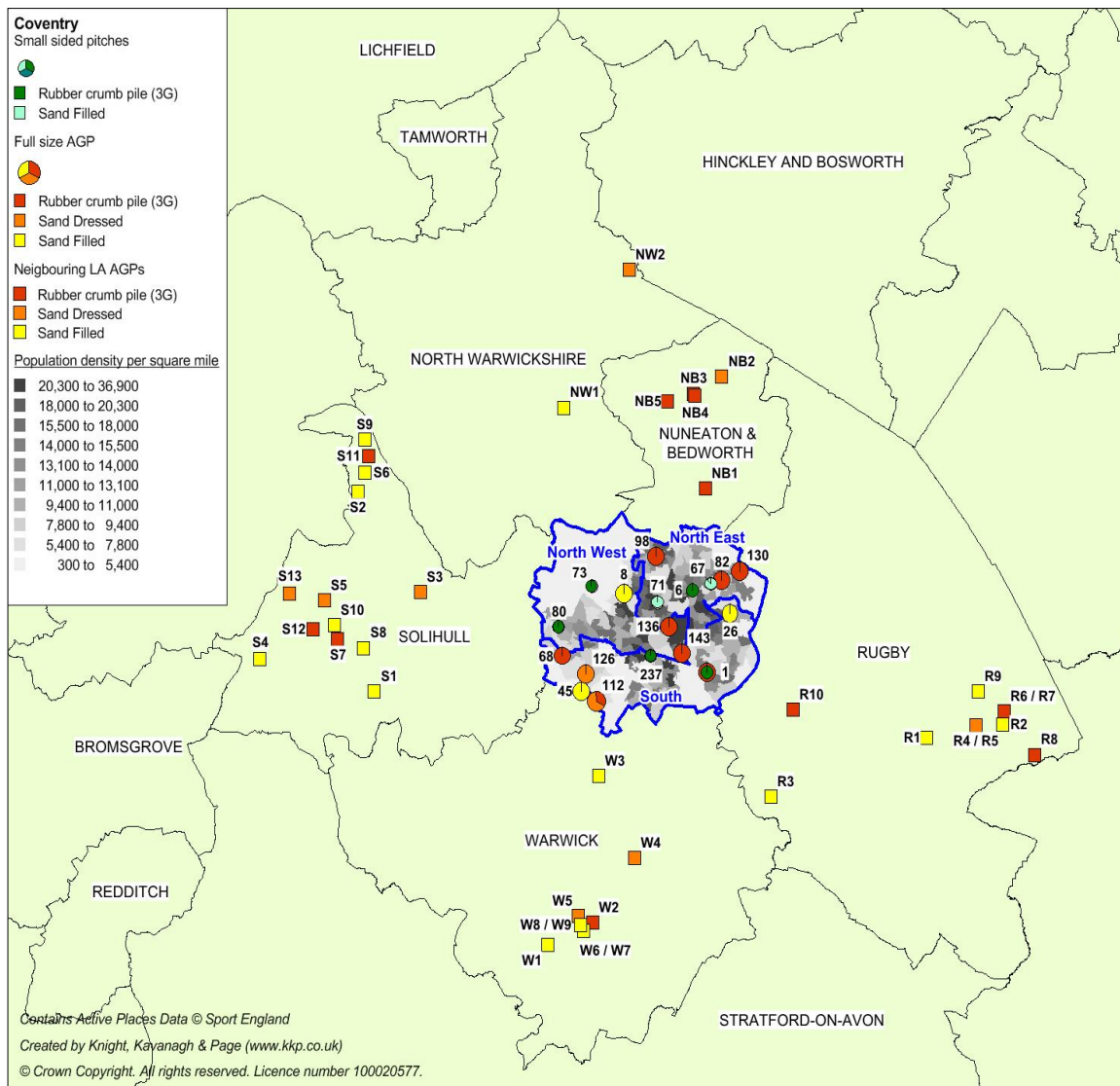
Table 2.15: AGP type and sport suitability

Surface	Category	Comments
Rubber crumb	Long Pile 3G (65mm with shock pad)	Rugby surface – must comply with IRB type 22 football surface
Rubber crumb	Long Pile 3G (55-60mm)	Preferred football surface
Rubber crumb	Short Pile 3G (40mm)	Acceptable surface for some competitive football
Sand	Sand filled	Competitive hockey and football training
Sand	Sand dressed	Preferred hockey surface/suitable for football training
Water	Water based	Preferred hockey surface/suitable for football training if irrigated.

Only competition up to (but not including) regional standard can take place on a 40mm pile. Football training can take place on sand and water based surfaces but this is not the preferred option. The FA provision standard suggests that there should be one full size 3G pitch per local authority per 60 teams per pitch. On the basis that there are 411 teams playing competitive football in Coventry, this suggests a need for 6.9 pitches. At present, there are seven 3G pitches in Coventry, as well as several smaller 3G pitches which add to the overall provision level. Despite this, clubs still report additional demand for training facilities.

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Figure 2.2: Location of full size and half size AGPs



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Table 2.16: Summary of artificial grass pitches in Coventry¹⁰

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Size	Type	Number	Floodlit	Year built	Year refurbished	KKP site ass. quality	Hours available during in notional peak period ¹¹	FA partner clubs/ leagues
82	Moat House Leisure & Neighbourhood Centre	North East	6000	Rubber crumb pile (3G)	1	Yes	2009	-	Good	34	Coventry Minor League
98	St Finbarrs Sport Ground	North East	6000	Rubber crumb pile (3G)	1	Yes	2013	-	Good	34	
130	Grace Academy Coventry	North East	6000	Rubber crumb pile (3G)	1	Yes	2011	-	Standard	29	
8	Bablake School	North West	7700	Sand Filled	1	Yes	1985	2001	Standard	25.5	
8	Bablake School	North West	7700	Sand Filled	1	Yes	1985	2000	Standard	25.5	

¹² Source: Sport England Facilities Planning Model National Run 2013 Profile Report. There are 34 hours a week that are classed as the notional peak period (NPP).

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Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Size	Type	Number	Floodlit	Year built	Year refurbished	KKP site ass. quality	Hours available during in notional peak period ¹²	FA partner clubs/ leagues
136	Sidney Stringer Academy	North West	5336	Rubber crumb pile (3G)	1	Yes	2012	-	Good	23	
143	Bluecoat Church Of England School	North West	4750	Rubber crumb pile (3G)	1	Yes	2006	2007	Good	29	Coundon Court
1	Alan Higgs Centre	South	6000	Rubber crumb pile (3G)	1	Yes	2004	-	Standard	34	Coventry City FC Academy (Sky Blues in the Community)
26	Caludon Castle Sports Centre	South	6000	Sand Filled	1	Yes	2007	-	Standard	29.5	
45	Westwood Heath Playing Fields (Coventry University)	South	6000	Sand Filled	1	Yes	2004	-	Standard	29	
68	Hereward College Sports Centre	South	6000	Sand Dressed	1	Yes	2008	-	Good	34	

¹² There are 34 hours a week that are classed as the notional peak period (NPP).

COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Size	Type	Number	Floodlit	Year built	Year refurbished	KKP site ass. quality	Hours available during in notional peak period ¹¹	FA partner clubs/ leagues
112	University Of Warwick (Westwood Campus)	South	6000	Sand Dressed	1	Yes	1994	2007	Standard	29	
112	University Of Warwick (Westwood Campus)	South	6000	Sand Dressed	1	Yes	1994	2009	Standard	29	
112	University Of Warwick (Westwood Campus)	South	6000	Rubber crumb pile (3G)	1	Yes	2003	-	Standard	29	

Small sized AGPs:

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Size	Type	Number	FA approved (3G only)	Floodlit	Year built	Year refurbished	KKP site ass. quality	Hours available during in notional peak period ¹³	FA partner clubs/ leagues
6	Centre AT7	North East	600	Rubber crumb pile (3G)	10	No	Yes	2009	-	Standard	34	

¹³ There are 34 hours a week that are classed as the notional peak period (NPP).

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Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Size	Type	Number	FA approved (3G only)	Floodlit	Year built	Year refurbished	KKP site ass. quality	Hours available during in notional peak period ¹³	FA partner clubs/ leagues
67	Henley College Coventry	North East	1295	Sand Filled	2	N/A	Yes	2007	-	Good	32	
71	Jag Daimler (Middlemar ch)	North East	1200	Sand Filled	3	N/A	Yes		-	Standard	34	
73	Jaguar Leisure Centre	North West	2100	Rubber crumb pile (3G)	1	No	Yes	2000	2010	Good	34	
80	Lucozade Powerleague Soccer Centre (Coventry)	North West	600	Rubber crumb pile (3G)	6	No	Yes	2006	2009	Good	34	
80	Lucozade Powerleague Soccer Centre (Coventry)	North West	1200	Rubber crumb pile (3G)	2	No	Yes	2006	2009	Good	34	
237	King Henry VIII School	South	2275	Rubber crumb pile (3G)	1	No	Yes	2009	-	Good	29	
126	Xcel Leisure Centre	South	3000	Sand dressed	2	N/A	Yes	2009	-	Standard	34	

COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 5.2: Key to Neighbouring Local Authority AGPs

Map Ref	Site	Surface type	Pitches	Local authority
Nw1	Arley Sports Centre	Sand Filled	3	North Warwickshire
Nw2	Queen Elizabeth School And Sports College	Sand Dressed	1	North Warwickshire
Nb2	Etone Sports Centre	Sand Dressed	1	Nuneaton And Bedworth
Nb3	Jubilee Sports Centre (Nuneaton)	Rubber Crumb Pile (3g)	1	Nuneaton And Bedworth
Nb4	St Thomas More Catholic School And Tech. College	Rubber Crumb Pile (3g)	1	Nuneaton And Bedworth
Nb5	The Nuneaton Academy Sports Centre	Rubber Crumb Pile (3g)	1	Nuneaton And Bedworth
R1	Bilton School Maths And Computing College	Sand Filled	1	Rugby
R2	Hartfield Sports Ground	Sand Filled	1	Rugby
R3	Princethorpe College	Sand Filled	1	Rugby
R4	Rugby School Sports Centre	Sand Dressed	1	Rugby
R5	Rugby School Sports Centre	Sand Dressed	1	Rugby
R6	Rugby Town Football Club	Rubber Crumb Pile (3g)	1	Rugby
R7	Rugby Town Football Club	Rubber Crumb Pile (3g)	1	Rugby
R8	Rugby Town Junior Football Club	Rubber Crumb Pile (3g)	2	Rugby
R9	Warwickshire College (Rugby Centre)	Sand Filled	1	Rugby
R10	Wolston Community Leisure Centre	Rubber Crumb Pile (3g)	1	Rugby
S1	Arden Academy Trust	Sand Filled	1	Solihull
S2	Grace Academy Solihull	Sand Filled	1	Solihull
S3	Hampton In Arden Sports Club Ltd	Sand Dressed	1	Solihull
S4	Light Hall School	Sand Filled	1	Solihull
S5	Lode Heath School	Sand Dressed	1	Solihull
S6	North Solihull Sports Centre	Sand Filled	1	Solihull
S7	Saint Martin's School	Rubber Crumb Pile (3g)	1	Solihull
S8	Silhillians Rfuc	Sand Filled	1	Solihull
S9	Smiths Wood Sports College	Sand Filled	1	Solihull
S10	Solihull School	Sand Filled	1	Solihull

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Map Ref	Site	Surface type	Pitches	Local authority
S11	The Pavilions	Rubber Crumb Pile (3g)	1	Solihull
S12	Tudor Grange Leisure Centre	Rubber Crumb Pile (3g)	1	Solihull
S13	West Warwickshire Sports Club	Sand Dressed	1	Solihull
W1	Aylesford School	Sand Filled	1	Warwick
W2	John Atkinson Sports Centre	Rubber Crumb Pile (3g)	1	Warwick
W3	Meadow Community Sports Centre	Sand Filled	1	Warwick
W4	North Leamington School	Sand Dressed	1	Warwick
W5	St Nicholas Park Leisure Centre	Sand Dressed	1	Warwick
W6	The Kings Heath High School For Girls Grass Pitches	Sand Filled	1	Warwick
W7	The Kings Heath High School For Girls Grass Pitches	Sand Filled	1	Warwick
W8	Warwick School Sports Centre	Sand Filled	1	Warwick
W9	Warwick School Sports Centre	Sand Filled	1	Warwick

All full-sized AGPs in Coventry are floodlit. None of the sites (providing full size AGPs) are commercially owned and are mainly owned and operated by education establishments.

Pricing of AGPs is also deemed to be expensive. Some clubs report a proportion of their players are from socially deprived areas and therefore the clubs often have to subsidise training costs.

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Sport England's Facilities Planning Model National Run 2013 Profile Report (July 2013)

Supply/Demand

Coventry has a comparatively good supply of AGPs, 14 pitches (seven have sand based surfaces and seven have 3G surfaces). Coventry has a higher number of pitches per 10,000 population at 0.41 per 10,000 than the regional figure at 0.33 per 10,000 population. 'Nearest neighbour' authorities Derby and Dudley are both lower at 0.39 per 10,000 and 0.22 per 10,000 respectively.

The current supply of AGPs can currently provide for 8,873 visits per week in the peak period (vpwpp) whereas the resident population generates an estimated overall demand for football of 7,089 vpwpp (or 9.6 pitches). This equates to 79% of the total demand for AGPs. The demand for football use is 10.5 pitches and thus there does appear to be a shortfall of AGPs for football in the peak period of 3.5 pitches.

It should be noted that football uses both surfaces (sand based and 3G) whereas hockey is only able to use sand based pitches. Football's preferred surface is 3G. However, there are only seven out of the 14 AGPs which are 3G, which is 50% of the total number of AGPs. Therefore, this raises a question about resurfacing some of the tired sand surfaces to 3G as and when funding becomes available for resurfacing.

Accessibility

Almost one in three Coventry households do not have access to a car. This is higher than the regional average and the comparable local authorities and means that the residents in Coventry are less mobile. Residents with access to a car can access all of Coventry's AGPs within a 20 minute drive time. However, the facilities are all full at peak times, therefore some unmet demand is from car users.

95.2% of the total visits are classed as 'satisfied' and of that 17.9% are walkers, which again is higher than the regional average and the two comparable local authorities. Satisfied demand for football is 97.3%, which is higher than the regional figure or the two comparable local authorities. Coventry exports circa one in five visits to an AGP for football to other local authorities. Of this number, one in ten is for football usage.

Unmet demand

Coventry's unmet demand is currently 4.8% of the total demand. This equates overall to 0.58 of a pitch, of which, football only has a total unmet demand of 2.7% (189 vpwpp). Overall the unmet demand breaks down into two categories; lack of capacity and people living outside the catchment area. The combined figures for football and hockey are 73.8% due to lack of capacity and 26.2% due to people living outside the catchment areas. Note: one in three households does not have access to a car.

There are no 'hot spots' within the city for unmet demand for football. However the highest areas for unmet demand are in Holbrooks, Foleshill, Radford, Sherbourne and St Michael's wards.

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Capacity

The current level of the used capacity of the AGPs is 100% which means there is no spare capacity to accommodate additional usage on the existing AGPs.

Coventry imports 22.7% of its total used capacity from non-Coventry residents. This breaks down to about one in five visits for football, who are not residents, use AGPs located within Coventry.

Overall the indicators are that Coventry has high satisfied demand due, in part, to a good network of AGPs.

Football – artificial grass pitch summary

- ◀ The FA suggests that provision of 3G pitches in Coventry is sufficient to meet current training demand. However, Sport England's Facilities Planning Model estimates there is an undersupply of 3.5 AGPs in Coventry (albeit that some of this demand is also for hockey).
- ◀ Consolidation and effective utilisation of existing stock is required to accommodate a growth in the population, which is expected from 24,000 proposed new houses for Coventry.
- ◀ Given football's dominance of the use of existing AGPs in Coventry, it may be beneficial to consider converting some of the older sand based surfaces to 3G when they are in need of replacement.
- ◀ There are opportunities to work with providers of existing AGPs to see whether capacity can be increased during the peak period. There are a number of AGPs operating at 29 hours per week (or less in some instances) in the peak period which could be increased to a maximum of 34 hours in the peak period thus increasing facility capacity.
- ◀ The model only looks at the current position and does not take into consideration any housing growth. There are concerns about what could happen with the added demand which will be generated with the proposed housing growth. It may be worth considering running the full FPM to model this effect and then using the findings to look for contributions towards new AGPs. In addition, it is important to program AGPs to ensure FA affiliated clubs have appropriate access for training purposes

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PART 3: CRICKET

3.1: Introduction

The Warwickshire County Cricket Board (WCCB) is the governing and representative body of cricket within the County, including Coventry. The Board's aim is to promote the game of cricket at all levels through partnerships with the professional and recreational cricketing clubs, and other appropriate agencies within the County.

The Warwickshire Cricket League (WCL) is the main opportunity for competitive senior cricket in the County, with 98 teams, 18 divisions and feeding into the Birmingham League as part of the Warwickshire Pyramid system. The majority of Coventry clubs also compete in midweek competitions such as the Coventry and District Cricket League (CDCL) and Coventry 20 Over Cricket League. Asian cricket is serviced by the Coventry 40 Over Sunday League.

The Coventry and District Cricket League provides the principle opportunities for junior cricket (from U9 to U19's) within the District. It is also a condition of the Warwickshire Cricket League that clubs have a junior structure.

Consultation

15 clubs are active in Coventry and play on pitches provided at privately owned venues and/or by lease/rental agreement. In 2010, KKP spoke to each club either via a face to face interview linked to a site visit or over the telephone. In 2013, KKP consulted with the ECB and the main leagues servicing the Coventry area and updated the supply and demand data for cricket.

3.2: Supply

Over the previous two decades there has been a steady decline in the number of cricket pitches. This is primarily due to the closure of company sports grounds (e.g. Jaguar, Morris Motors, Brico Engineering). It is estimated by the WCCB that 23 sites accommodating cricket have been lost in the last 25 years in Coventry. This has now resulted in Coventry providing the least number of clubs and the lowest County participation rates.

However, there are still a large number of privately owned sports grounds, many of which are old company sports clubs such as Peugeot, Massey Ferguson and Standard. Clubs range from those with just one or two senior teams (such as Dunlop CC), Asian teams which have to rent private pitches (such as Coventry Knight Riders CC), to the larger more established clubs (such as Coventry NW), which provide competitive opportunities for all age groups (and are also Clubmark accredited). CCC does not provide any parks cricket pitches for clubs to hire.

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The audit identifies 19 sites providing a total of 24 cricket pitches currently available for community use in Coventry.

Table 3.1: Summary of pitches available for community use

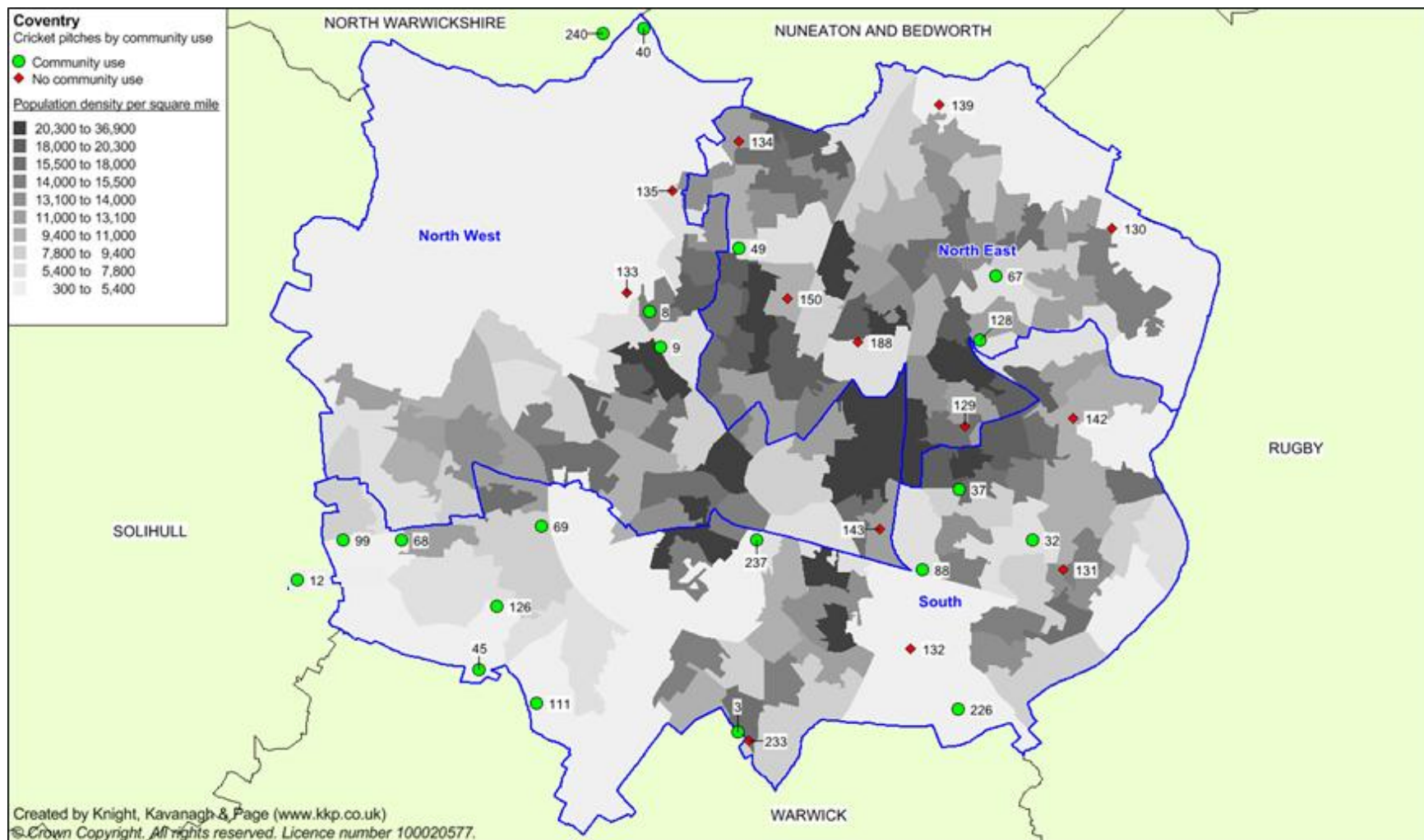
Analysis area	No. of pitches
North East	3
North West	5
South	16
COVENTRY	24

Peak time demand for cricket pitches (competitive games) in Coventry is Saturday afternoon for senior matches. In addition, most junior matches are played midweek (on various evenings).

Figure 3.1 (overleaf) generally indicates a good distribution of cricket pitches across the city. However, there is a lack of cricket clubs and few schools participating in cricket in north east Coventry. This area has been the main focus for loss of company sports grounds/cricket pitches and as a result, clubs have often moved to neighbouring areas such as North Warwickshire.

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Figure 3.1: Location of cricket pitches in Coventry



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Please refer to Table 3.9 for the key to the map

The old cricket pitch located at Sphinx Sports and Social Club was left dormant following a merger between Standard and Coventry Sphinx cricket clubs. There is no longer a cricket wicket present. The clubs now play as Standard CC at the Triumph Sports Ground.

There is also a former cricket pitch at Mercia Sporting Club, located in the north east analysis area, that is currently disused.

All sites that are unavailable for community use are located on secondary or primary school sites. In most instances this is because they only provide poor quality artificial wickets that are over marked with other grass pitch sports such as rugby and football and include:

- ◀ Broad Heath Primary School
- ◀ Caludon Castle School
- ◀ Cardinal Newman School
- ◀ Coundon Court School
- ◀ Coventry Blue Coat School
- ◀ Ernesford Grange School
- ◀ Grace Academy
- ◀ Joseph Cash Primary School
- ◀ Foxford School
- ◀ President Kennedy School
- ◀ Finham Park School
- ◀ Stoke Park School
- ◀ Whitley Abbey School
- ◀ Bablake School (small size pitch)

Management

In addition to considerations of health and safety of other park users, Coventry City Council is unable to meet demand for high quality cricket pitches and pavilions and has therefore taken the decision not to provide cricket pitches in its parks and recreation grounds. However, this is not to say that it would not be interested in leasing certain sites to clubs to develop the facilities. This contrasts with neighbouring Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council which provides six cricket sites and maintains them to a high standard.

WCCB recognises that there is a lack of BME participation in cricket, particularly within the Asian communities in Coventry. However, the reduction in availability of park pitches has been detrimental to the growth of Asian cricket in Coventry. However, there are opportunities for investment into park pitches as identified in the WCCB Facilities Strategy. Many Asian teams based in Coventry struggle to find regular access to grounds and as a result, travel outside to Nuneaton & Bedworth to access pitches. Where Asian teams do exist in Coventry, they are only able to operate one senior team and have to rent pitches at private clubs on an annual basis e.g. Coventry Knight Riders CC.

Private ground hire charges can reach £80 per game; Coventry teams playing on Nuneaton pitches are charged at a higher rate than Nuneaton teams (£68 rather than £50). Clubs also report that the use of Nuneaton pitches increases travelling time and associated costs.

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Training facilities

Access to training nets is important, particularly for pre-season/winter training. King Henry VIII School is recognised as a good quality facility and is therefore well used by the larger cricket clubs in the city. However, demand for access to indoor nets is high and can be problematic for some clubs. There are varying degrees of access to other facilities across the City, such as Coventry University, Xcel Leisure Centre, The Woodlands and Whitley Abbey schools.

Two clubs report that they do not utilise indoor training nets due to cost and inaccessibility; Coventry Colliery AJK and Coventry Copsewood.

WCCB is keen to cement more agreements for better access to indoor cricket nets in Coventry, as identified in its regional facilities strategy.

Pitch quality

In cricket, the quality of the pitch is the most important aspect, if the wicket is poor it means the quality of cricket is affected and can even become dangerous. It is impossible to conduct a full technical assessment of cricket wicket quality within the methodology of this assessment. In order to obtain an accurate assessment a Performance Quality Standard (PQS) report would need to be produced.

WCCB carried out its own pitch assessments during the creation of its Facilities Strategy in 2012. These assessment scores have been used to inform the pitch quality audit for this Assessment Report. The audit of pitches identifies 38 cricket pitches in Coventry, of which the majority (87%) were found to be good quality. The remainder are assessed as standard or poor quality.

The Table below summarises the pitch quality of all pitches in Coventry.

Table 3.3: Pitch quality of all pitches (regardless of community use)

Good	Standard	Poor
33	3	2

Coventry has 24 cricket pitches (63%) that are available for community use, of which all but one is assessed as 'good' quality. Highway Sports and Social Club is regarded as having a 'standard' quality pitch. No cricket pitches that are accessible to the community were rated as being 'poor' quality.

Pitch quality is further affected by sites being played to or over capacity. Many cricket pitches in Coventry are overmarked with football pitches and where this occurs the drainage on the outfield tends to be poor. In particular, this is noted as a potential issue at Alvis Sports and Social Club.

The majority of clubs are responsible for maintaining their own facilities and have designated groundsmen to carry out cutting and maintenance. In general, wicket quality is reportedly good or excellent in Coventry, with just over half of clubs suggesting that the quality of their square has improved since last season. This is predominately due to maintenance work undertaken by volunteer groundsmen.

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In order to ensure pitch quality, Warwickshire Cricket League operates a stringent 'club standard' which all new teams and clubs are expected to meet as a minimum. Grounds scoring below three points are investigated by the League's Grounds Committee. Consultation reports all clubs in Coventry meet the minimum league requirements.

Ancillary facilities

League consultation suggests the stock of ancillary facilities and pavilions in the City are old and in need of attention. The vast majority of clubs rate the quality of their changing facilities to be average or poor quality (80%). In particular, Coventry Copsewood (playing at Copsewood Sports and Social Club), Star Alvis (playing at Alvis Sports and Social Club) and Bablake Old Boys (playing at Bablake Playing Fields) cricket clubs report facilities to be poor. The Birmingham League constantly scores Coventry's changing rooms poorly and the facilities are likely to be unacceptable in the future.

Through its Facilities Strategy, WCCB urges clubs to give consideration to the adequacy of their changing facilities and to bring them up to standard when an opportunity arises. All Coventry focus clubs' clubhouses/pavilions are identified as being only satisfactory and it is likely that in the lifetime of the Strategy, they will require improvement.

The table below summarises the quality of changing accommodation from club questionnaires:

Table 3.4: Summary of the quality of changing accommodation

Good	Average	Poor
2	9	3

In addition to reporting latent demand for pitches, two clubs, Standard and Bablake Old Boys, suggest that if they had access to better quality and/or segregated changing rooms, they could produce more teams.

Massey Ferguson Sports and Social Club currently provide the changing accommodation for Bannerbrook Park (located approximately one mile away). As part of a Section 106 Agreement with Persimmon Homes from the sale of the old factory site for housing, it was options for a new facility/re-provision were provided. However, the development has not yet realised its full phasing and resolution to the re-provision has been on hold due to the economic downturn.

Alvis Sports and Social Club has aspirations to build a new changing facility. It provides two small changing rooms within the clubhouse and two within a portacabin structure at the rear of the building. Both facilities are inadequate for the current level of play at the site. Clubs using the site for cricket highlight this as a specific issue.

Bablake School has been granted planning permission to build a new primary school at rear of Bablake Old Boys Sports Club. This could create an opportunity for the Club to provide new changing/clubhouse facility, tied in with changes to the entrance/access.

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The ECB produces a series of technical guidance notes for cricket, including a document on pavilions and clubhouses. The aim of the guide is to provide practical advice for club officials and designers when planning pavilions and clubhouses. It applies to new buildings and alterations to existing facilities.

The table below details the elements considered by the ECB¹⁴ to be essential/desirable for changing rooms.

Table 3.5: Changing room summary

Changing rooms	Essential for each team changing room	Desirable
Bench seating	12 spaces at 500mm wide x 450mm deep x 450mm high	600mm wide
Kit bags	12 spaces at 1200mm long x 450mm deep x 400mm high. The changing room layout should account for each player having their own kit bag or box, which can be as long as 1200mm	450mm high
Changing	Two rooms each with 20sqm for changing space, benches and bag storage with 1.8m between the front face of opposite benches	2m between the front face of opposite benches
Showers	Three shower heads per changing room at 750mm centres with 450-500mm between shower fittings and the side walls. Showers on opposite walls should be at least 2.5m apart to allow circulation. A separate dry-off area should be provided.	Four shower heads. Always check requirements of other NGBs when designing mixed facilities. Consider privacy screens between showers/separate cubicles.
Toilets for players	Ideally provided with convenient access from the changing room: one WC and one wash-hand basin with mirrors above. In pavilions with four or more team changing rooms, toilets for players must be integrated in the changing room and for the exclusive use of each team. This is not essential in two-changing room pavilions.	Two WCs and wash hand basins. Note that providing urinals would make the changing rooms less flexible for female use.

It is recognised that this guidance can be difficult to meet with limited space/funds available. However, any new developments are encouraged to strive to meet these requirements.

¹⁴ TS5 document on pavilions and clubhouses – www.ecb.co.uk

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Coventry Cricket Facilities Strategy (2012-2017)

Produced by Warwickshire Cricket Board, the purpose of this Strategy is to outline the shortfall in supply and identify a number of projects for investment that will secure the future of the sport across Coventry and Warwickshire. It was identified in the Warwickshire Cricket Board Facilities Strategy and Framework for Investment 2008-2013 that there was a need for an independent strategy for Coventry. The objectives of the Strategy are to:

- ◀ Ascertain the current level of cricket facilities in Coventry - Indoor and Outdoor across clubs, education and public sectors.
- ◀ Determine the level of loss of cricket facilities and compare current supply and demand.
- ◀ Compare to supply/demand levels in Warwickshire as a baseline.
- ◀ Analyse findings.
- ◀ Identify specific areas for improvement.
- ◀ Share knowledge and findings with partners and key interested parties.
- ◀ Consult internally and externally with appropriate personnel from identified development areas.
- ◀ Use the strategy to communicate development areas and justifications to potential funders.

The Strategy highlights the central and north east areas of the city have been identified as having the vast amount of grounds and general facilities, often where there is identified levels of latent demand. These areas are a priority for new provision.

There is a clear focus on advocating the placement/replacement of more non-turf match pitches at secondary schools in Coventry which include President Kennedy, Grace Academy, Cardinal Newman and Foxford.

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Table 3.6: Strategic Priorities and Action Plans - extract from the Coventry Cricket Facilities Strategy (2012-2017)

The recommendations in the table below have been ranked according to priority with an aim to have these completed by 2017.

Priority	Site	Project	Key Partners/users	Potential funding	Completion year	Comments and issues
1	Corley CC	Purchase of adjacent field for new cricket pitch.	Corley CC ,Warwickshire, WCB, ECB	ECB	2015	Development to commence in 2015 will be ideal, but the biggest challenge will be securing the land. This will help accommodate one 'homeless' club increasing adult participation. Corley is affiliated to the WCB, is Clubmark accredited and a 'strategically important club'.
1	Massey Ferguson CC	Clubhouse and/or 2nd ground grass square	Persimmon Homes, Coventry City Council	Section 106 ECB	2014	It is a Clubmark and a strategically important club. It has a good quality pitch and the potential to increase participation.
2	Multiple schools, particularly in North/East Coventry	To replace or introduce new NTP's	Grace Academy Foxford Cardinal Newman President Kennedy Caludon Castle Blue Coat	ECB, The Lords Taverners, Chance to Shine.	To be completed by 2014	The schools must prove they do/will offer cricket and that they can secure the non turf pitches to protect against vandalism. The WCB must make a strong effort to improve schools cricket in Coventry in accordance with this aim. Schools must also make an active effort to offer grounds to clubs should they be required at a reasonable rate.

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Priority	Site	Project	Key Partners/users	Potential funding	Completion year	Comments and issues
3	Coventry University	Indoor School	Coventry University ECB Jaguar	ECB Jaguar Coventry University	Conversations to be started immediately, business plan drawn up and centre ready for use in 2015	Issues could be funding, however it will help improve cricket in Coventry significantly. Management will be taken over by Coventry University and will require little input from other parties. It will serve much of Warwickshire.
3	To be identified	Identify new cricket ground site for Asian leagues	WCB and Coventry City Council	ECB, Leagues	To be completed by 2017	Club would need to buy in and set out plans for youth set up. However, Coventry City Council advice should be sought on best place to establish new cricket ground. This will also need to meet ECB standards.
5	Pak Shaheen	Create second ground	Pak Shaheen	ECB	To be completed by 2017	Must be able to show strong youth set up and be willing to lease out the ground to other clubs.
6	Multiple sites	Assistance with funding applications to bring grounds and parks identified up to required standards.	WCB, Alvis, Standard, Peugeot, Dunlop, Copeswood, Massey Ferguson, Colliery and Pak Shaheen	ECB	To be completed by 2017	Issues may be the availability of funding.
7	Bablake School	Development of two new pitches.	Bablake School, WCB, Hearsall Cricket Club	ECB	To be completed by 2017	Assistance with this will be on the condition that the School allow another club to be located there. They should agree to host festivals/summer camps in return for the investment. Ideally, non turf pitches can be dropped in to allow for more school games. Possible Last Man Stands host on tournament days.

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3.4: Demand

Demand for cricket pitches in Coventry tends to fall within the categories of organised competitive play and organised training.

Competitive play

A total of 87 teams play cricket in Coventry. Clubs range from smaller clubs offering just the one senior team to those with full senior sections of up to four senior teams and juniors at all groups (i.e. U10 to U17).

Table 3.7: Summary of competitive teams playing in Coventry

Analysis area	No. of competitive teams		
	Senior men	Junior Boys	Junior Girls
North East	2	0	0
North West	8	7	0
South	36	31	3
Coventry	46	38	3

There are 15 clubs currently playing in Coventry, generating 87 teams, which are generally comprised of a good balance of senior and junior cricket teams. Participation in Coventry has decreased over the last few years. This is predominately due to the closure of company sports grounds.

There is generally a high level of junior participation at clubs in Coventry, which provide 32 junior teams in total ranging from U8s to U17s.

As a Coventry based club playing in North Warwickshire, Pak Shaheen Cricket Club (predominately an Asian club) secured external funding from the ECB and Sport England to develop former agricultural land in Corley (close to the Coventry boundary) and has laid a cricket square (including outfield) which it now uses for its competitive fixtures. The Club has four senior teams and three junior boys' teams.

Current demand

Although some leagues do have a waiting list, the majority of Coventry leagues do not operate a waiting list. However, this is a result of current facilities operating at/over capacity rather than a lack of demand.

Warwickshire Cricket League accommodates 89 clubs, of which, 11 clubs play on pitches in Coventry. It reports its playing membership has remained the same over the previous three years. Its general league membership has remained static in the last three years, reflecting little growth in participation.

The League receives a handful of queries a year from clubs that would like to join but securing peak time (Saturday pm) access to pitches in Coventry is difficult. These clubs generally go to a midweek league. All cricket pitches in Coventry are in use on a Saturday afternoon, indicating no spare peak time capacity.

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Standard and Coventry Sphinx cricket clubs recently merged following the cricket pitch becoming unplayable for high standard cricket at Sphinx Sports and Social Club. The clubs now play as Standard CC at the Standard Triumph Sports Ground. However, the Club has to hire a second pitch at the Xcel Leisure Centre to fulfil all its fixtures.

Although a cricket pitch remains at Sphinx Sports and Social Club, it is predominately now a Gaelic football facility with changing rooms etc. The move created a shift in demand (Sphinx had to move across to the other side of the city) and although the Club now has the largest junior section in Coventry (and expresses latent demand for two more teams), it has seen a decrease in senior teams that have been less likely to travel. It is therefore likely that demand still exists around Sphinx Sports and Social Club for cricket.

The majority of clubs (60%) report that the number of senior teams competing has remained static over the last three years. Static membership levels were also mirrored in junior membership levels with just over half (53%) of clubs reporting the number of junior teams has also remained the same. It is likely that this reflects that clubs are and have been operating at capacity over the last few years. However, clubs are more likely to report that junior membership has increased, with clubs suggesting this has been achieved through improved links with local schools.

Consultation and analysis of supply/demand suggests that the number of cricket pitches in the City is insufficient to meet levels of current demand. Some clubs report an issue accommodating 3rd or 4th teams. For example, Highway and Standard both rely on the League being flexible regarding fixtures as they use a school pitch and access is restricted. As a result, Highway CC reports that it is actively looking for a second home ground.

Latent demand

Latent demand is defined as the number of teams that could be fielded if there were sufficient pitches. Although five clubs report enough demand to increase the number of teams they provide (a total of three senior and seven junior teams), clubs report difficulty in being able to secure appropriate access to pitches. Bablake Old Boys CC reports the most latent demand, with the 'Chance to Shine' programme having worked well for the Club and having highlighted demand in this area.

The table overleaf summarises specific latent demand expressed by clubs for additional pitches. Some large clubs suggest that it is more important to meet current demand (i.e. securing regular access for 3rd and 4th teams) and do not therefore express latent demand for pitches. For example, Coventry NW and Highway clubs do not express latent demand even though in reality they could provide more teams if they had access to more pitches.

The development plans (*through a Section 106 Agreement*) for Bannerbrook Park (Massey Ferguson CC) could eventually create a second pitch (currently just an artificial wicket). This will result in the juniors being transferred to the new pitch, providing capacity to create more teams. However, currently this still represents latent demand.

Bablake Old Boys Sports and Social Club site has the potential to accommodate another pitch. Although it may be slightly small, it could comfortably be used for junior matches, alleviating current pressure on the main square. In addition, the site adjoins Bablake

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School off-site playing fields (which accommodate three cricket pitches) and although it occasionally accesses a pitch, regular hiring costs are prohibitive.

Table 3.8: Summary of latent demand expressed by clubs

Club	Site (KKP ref)	Level of latent demand	Pitch requirement
Bablake Old Boys CC	8	3 junior girls teams	1
Massey Ferguson CC	12	2 senior teams	1
Standard CC	99	2 junior teams at U15	0.5
Coventry University CC	45	1 senior team	0.5
Coventry Copeswood CC	32	2 junior teams	0.5
Total			3.5 cricket pitches

Sport England's Market Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in cricket but are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 1,375 people. 27.5% of the population that would like to participate in cricket is the segment 'Jamie - sports team lads'. Of the 1,375 people, 54 (3.9%) are females; the largest segment of which is 'Paula - single mums with financial pressures, childcare issues and little time for pleasure'.

School cricket

There is no regular competitive community use of school cricket pitches in Coventry. However, the WCCB is keen to support and protect the availability of school grass pitches but recognise that synthetic cricket wickets are often favoured by schools in order to reduce maintenance costs. It is recognised that there is potential to develop better links and facilities at President Kennedy School. Good school cricket facilities are often used at the independent schools, Bablake and King Henry VIII.

There will be two Free Schools opening up near the City Centre (north east area) by 2014, which will be Sikh and Muslim faith based primary/secondary (respectively) free schools. Coventry City Council's Education Department suggests that these schools, through the planning process and in conjunction with this Strategy, could provide cricket pitches that could be used by Asian communities.

Women and girls' participation

There is currently no women's cricket being played competitively in Coventry and although girls are participating (within junior teams) only Standard CC fields specific junior girls' teams at Under 15, 13 and 11. Women's cricket in the area is currently being accommodated at Kenilworth Wardens Cricket Club, which is located outside of Coventry.

There are also no opportunities for girls to play at a District level. Coventry District Cricket Board recognises the gap and is keen to further develop girls' teams. However, clubs generally suggest that pitches and in particular ancillary facilities are operating at capacity due to either poor quality and/or no segregated changing facilities which is inhibiting further junior growth.

For example, Bablake CC expresses latent demand for three junior girls' teams if it had more access to pitches and had better quality ancillary facilities.

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Last Man Stands (LMS)

In order to encourage more young people (aged 16–25) into the sport, the ECB has developed more informal types of cricket such as Last Man Stands (LMS). The LMS League in Coventry is played at Westwood Sports and Conference Facility (Coventry University) and Copsewood Sports and Social Club midweek during the evenings and comprises of eight teams. The teams are made up of individuals who have either not played the sport before or played the sport years ago.

LMS has aspirations to increase the number of teams to at least 20 over the next couple of years. In addition, its playing membership has doubled from four teams in season 11/12 to eight in season 12/13. The growth is primarily due to marketing (and branding) of the informal game across the city.

LMS reports that it is unable to grow the League further in Coventry due to grounds unwilling to host the mid-week league. Although there are a number of education sites providing wickets that, potentially, could be utilised for mid-week matches, it reports that teams won't play on the sites as the pitch quality is deemed to be of a lower standard than private pitches. It believes that if it had access to good quality pitches (for instance pitches of the quality of Bablake School and Coventry and North Warwickshire) it would increase the number of competitive teams.

3.5: Capacity analysis

The capacity of pitches to regularly provide for competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of a pitch affects the playing experience and people's enjoyment of playing cricket. In extreme circumstances it can result in the inability of the pitch to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off peak times.

Capacity analysis for cricket is measured on a season rather than weekly basis. This is due to playability i.e. only one match is generally played per pitch per day at the weekend or evening during the week. Wickets are rotated throughout the season to reduce wear and allow repair. Therefore, it is more accurate to assess capacity seasonally rather than weekly. The capacity of a pitch to accommodate match sessions is driven by the number and quality of wickets. This section presents the current pitch stock available for cricket in Coventry. It illustrates,

- ◀ The number of grass and artificial cricket wickets per pitch.
- ◀ The number of competitive matches per season per pitch.

As a guide, the ECB suggests that a good quality wicket should be able to take:

- ◀ 5 matches per season per grass wicket.
- ◀ 60 matches per season per synthetic wicket.

If an artificial wicket exists on a pitch with grass wickets, we have assumed where there are a significant number of junior teams assigned to a pitch, that junior play takes place on the artificial wicket. Consequently the capacity of cricket pitches excludes synthetic wickets.

COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

This information is used to allocate capacity ratings as follows:

Potential capacity	Play is below the level the site could sustain
At capacity	Play matches the level the site can sustain
Overused	Play exceeds the level the site can sustain

COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 3.9: Cricket pitch capacity and key to map

KKP ref	Site name	Community use	Analysis area	Total no. of pitches	Pitch quality/standard	Total no. of wickets ¹⁵		Play (matches/season)	ECB capacity ¹⁶ (matches/season)	Capacity rating
						Grass wickets	Artificial wickets ¹⁷			
49	Dunlop Sports And Social Club	Yes	North East	1	Good	8		26	40	-14
128	Lyng Hall School	Yes	North East	1	Good		1	13	60	-47
8	Bablake Playing Fields	Yes	North West	1	Good	11		128	55	73
40	Coventry Colliery Sports & Social Club	Yes	North West	1	Good	12		26	60	-34
3	Alvis Sports Club	Yes	South	1	Good	4	1	54	80	-26
32	Copsewood Sports and Social Club	Yes	South	1	Good	5		57	25	32
37	Coventry & North Warwick Cricket Club	Yes	South	1	Good	12		124	60	64
45	Coventry University (Westwood Heath Campus)	Yes	South	1	Good	7	1	39	95	-56
69	Highway Sports & Social Club	Yes	South	1	Standard	11	1	115	115	0
88	Peugeot Sports and Social Club	Yes	South	1	Good	8	1	52	100	-48
99	Standard Triumph Club	Yes	South	1	Good	8	1	164	100	64
111	University Of Warwick (Cryfield Sports Pitches)	Yes	South	3	Good	29	1	65	205	-140

¹⁵ A cricket square is made up of individual wickets

¹⁶ Based on a good quality pitch (does not include capacity of artificial wickets on site)

COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

KKP ref	Site name	Community use	Analysis area	Total no. of pitches	Pitch quality/standard	Total no. of wickets ¹⁵		Play (matches/season)	ECB capacity ¹⁶ (matches/season)	Capacity rating
						Grass wickets	Artificial wickets ¹⁷			
126	Xcel Leisure Centre	Yes	South	1	Good	4		13	20	-7
226	King Henry VIII School off site pitches	Yes	South	1	Good	8	1	26	100	-74
237	King Henry VIII School	Yes	South	1	Good	7	1	13	95	-82
240	Pak Shaheen Cricket Club	Yes	OUTSIDE	1	Good	10		79	50	29
12	Bannerbrook Park	Yes	OUTSIDE	2	Good	12	1	44	120	-76
129	Stoke Park School	No	North East	1	Good		1	0	60	-60
130	Grace Academy	No	North East	1	Good		1	0	60	-60
131	Ernesford Grange School	No	South	1	Good		1	0	60	-60
132	Whitley Academy	No	South	1	Good		1	0	60	-60
133	Coundon Court School	No	North West	1	Good		2	0	120	-120
134	President Kennedy School	No	North East	1	Poor		1	0	60	-60
135	Cardinal Newman School	No	North West	1	Good		1	0	60	-60
139	Foxford School	No	North East	1	Poor		1	0	60	-60
142	Caludon Castle School	No	South	1	Standard	1		0	5	-5
143	Coventry Blue Coat School	No	North West	1	Standard		1	0	60	-60
150	Joseph Cash Primary School	No	North East	1	Good	1		0	5	-5
188	Broad Heath Primary School	No	North East	1	Good		1	0	60	-60
233	Finham Park Primary School	No	South	1	Good		1	0	60	-60

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3.6: Supply and demand analysis

Although it is difficult to identify overplay by calculating the capacity of cricket pitches (as the length of a cricket match varies), it would appear, from both analysis of play and consultation with clubs, the majority of pitches are operating under capacity. However, four pitches (excluding Pak Shaheen CC, which is located just outside Coventry), accounting for a quarter of cricket pitches in Coventry, are overplayed. Highway Sports and Social Club is the only pitch that is deemed to be at capacity, however it is also the only pitch rated as 'standard' quality, with all other pitches rated as 'good' quality.

Spare capacity

Although most cricket sites in Coventry appear to express spare capacity (and some at peak time), five sites (31%) are either not used or accommodate little play due to these being university or secondary school pitches.

Overplay

There are four cricket sites in Coventry which are played beyond their recommended carrying capacity (as recommended by the ECB); Bablake Playing Fields, Copsewood Sports and Social Club, Coventry and North Warwick Cricket Club and Standard Triumph Club. All these are overplayed due to the number of teams playing on site and/or due the amount of public/ informal use.

In particular, Coventry and North Warwick Cricket Club's pitch is severely overplayed, however there are no options to expand this site as it is land locked and the Club has considered selling and moving to a bigger site.

Scenarios

Latent demand

A total of 3.5 cricket pitches are identified as latent demand in Coventry. In some instances, latent demand expressed by juniors can be met through the provision of artificial wickets. However, many clubs are opposed to adding artificial wickets to the main square as they believe it impacts negatively on the general pitch quality.

Future demand

Future demand can be defined in two ways, through participation increases and using population forecasts. Team generation rates are used below as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future, based on population growth.

Demand reported from LMS is projected to increase to at least 20 teams over the next few years in Coventry if cricket pitches can be secured for midweek fixtures. Although there is some capacity on existing stock midweek, new artificial wickets, at for example, school sites may be a solution.

COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 3.10: Team generation rates

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate	Future population within age group	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Mens (18-55)	50,907	46	1107	57,959	52.4	6.4
Senior Womens (18-55)	50,441	0	0	58,029	0.0	0.0
Junior Boys (7-17)	13,437	41	328	15,999	48.8	7.8
Junior Girls (7-17)	13,205	3	4402	15,000	3.4	0.4

There is predicted to be 14 new teams created from population growth in Coventry by 2021, resulting in the need for approximately seven pitches if all the teams played at peak time.

Cricket summary

- ◀ There are 15 clubs currently playing in Coventry, generating 87 teams. Participation in Coventry has decreased over the last few years. This is predominately due to the closure of company sports grounds.
- ◀ KKP identified 19 cricket sites in Coventry, providing 24 pitches that are available for community use.
- ◀ There is currently no women's cricket being played competitively in Coventry and although girls are participating (within junior teams) only Standard CC fields specific junior girls' teams at Under 15, 13 and 11. Consultation suggests there is also no opportunity for girls to play at a District level. Coventry District Cricket Board recognises the gap and is keen to further develop girls' teams. However, clubs generally suggest that pitches and in particular ancillary facilities are operating at capacity due to either poor quality and/or no segregated changing which is inhibiting further junior growth.
- ◀ There is a lack of cricket clubs and few schools participating in cricket in north east Coventry.
- ◀ All cricket pitches in Coventry are in use on a Saturday afternoon, indicating no spare peak time capacity. In addition, senior and junior participation has generally remained static over the last few years suggesting clubs are and have been operating at capacity over the last few years.
- ◀ 65% of Coventry's cricket pitches are available for community use, of which, all but one were assessed as good quality. This suggests that although pitches in use are used to or over capacity, there is potential to increase availability without providing more pitches.
- ◀ Five clubs report enough demand to increase the number of teams they provide (a total of three senior and seven junior teams) but report difficulty in being able to secure appropriate access to pitches.
- ◀ Although new pitches will be required to accommodate future and latent demand identified in Coventry, there is some capacity on existing stock, new artificial wickets at, for example, school sites may be a solution.

COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

PART 4: RUGBY

4.1 Introduction

The Warwickshire Rugby Football Union (WRFU) is the governing and representative body of rugby union within the County, including Coventry. It recognises that Coventry has a strong tradition of rugby union with a high density of clubs and schools playing rugby.

Consultation

KKP sent an online survey to all clubs playing in Coventry and achieved a response rate of 100%

4.2 Supply

The table below summaries the current provision of pitches currently available for community use in the city.

Table 4.1: Summary of pitches available for community use

Analysis area	No. of available pitches	
	Senior	Mini/midi
North East	3	0
North West	10	0
South	20	3
Coventry	33	3

Please note that the audit only identifies dedicated, line marked pitches.

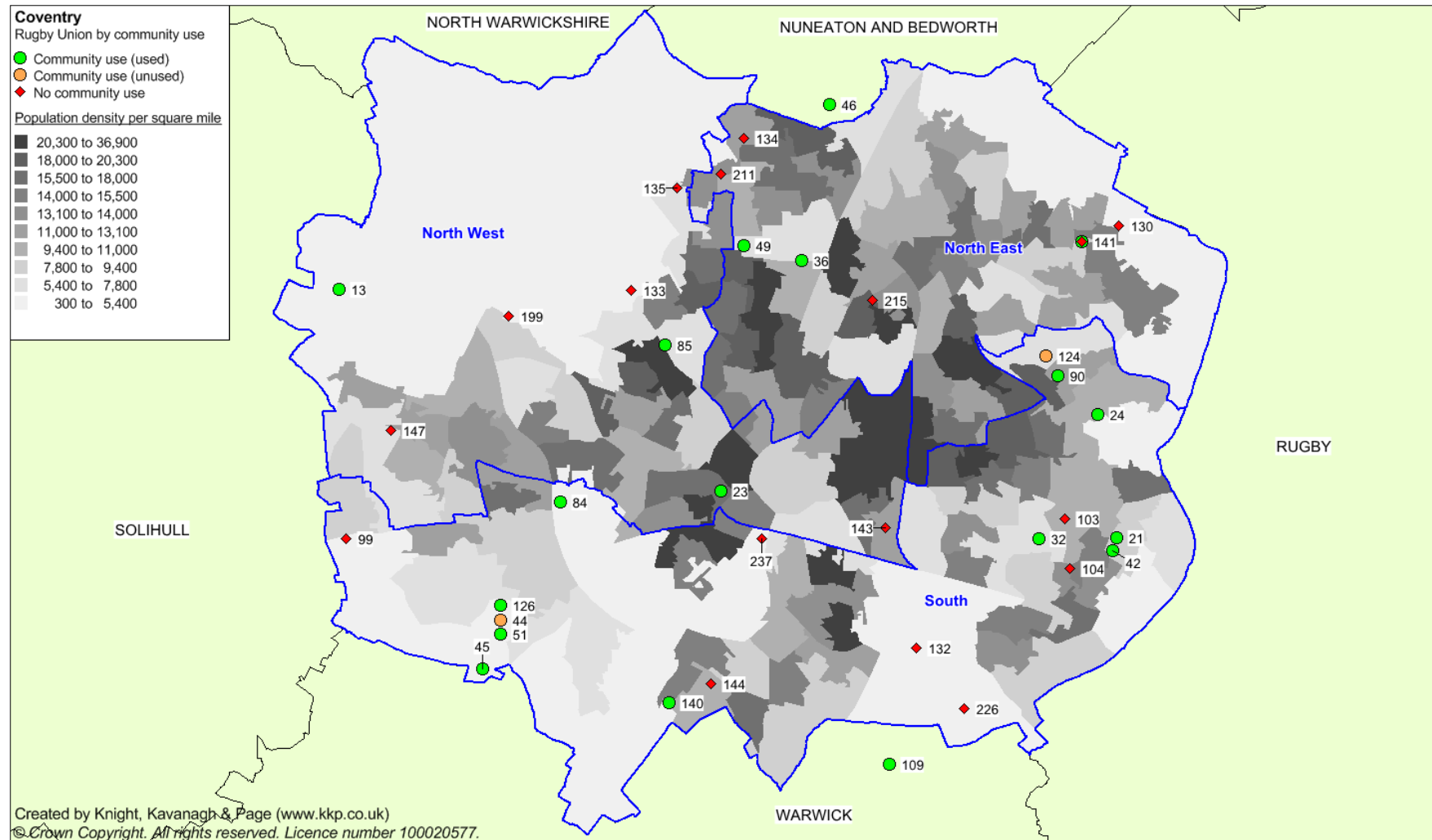
For rugby union pitch dimension sizes please refer to RFU 'Grass Pitches for Rugby' at: http://www.rfu.com/managingrugby/clubdevelopment/facilitiesandequipment/~/_media/files/2009/facilitiesandequipment/facilities%20guidance%20note%202.ashx

Overall, 16 sites provide 36 rugby pitches that are available for community use in Coventry. The distribution is focused on the periphery of the city, with little provision in the centre. In addition, there are also a number of large clubs located in neighbouring authorities which draw members from within the city. This includes Broad Street in Rugby, Keresley RFC in North Warwickshire, Coventry Welsh RFC in Nuneaton and Bedworth , and Trinity Guild RFC in Warwick. Neighbouring Nuneaton is also a large rugby town and it is thought likely that some Coventry residents travel there, and also into Birmingham and Worcester, to play.

The map overleaf displays the location of rugby pitches in Coventry

COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Figure 4.1: Location of rugby pitches



COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Please refer to Table 4.7 for the key to the map

Under half (47%) of rugby pitches in Coventry are available for community use. Of the pitches that are not available for community use, the majority (78%) of these pitches are located at school sites.

Pitch quality

The table below summarises pitch quality following site visits to all pitches (including those not available for community use).

Table 4.3: Pitch quality following site visits

Good	Standard	Poor
22	12	2

Junior and/or mini rugby pitches are not specifically provided in rugby union and juniors/minis tend to play across senior pitches or on coned areas. This tends to create significant overplay. In addition, it is not uncommon for key match pitches to be used for training throughout the week. This further adds to the wear and tear of pitches and is accounted for within team equivalents applied to the capacity analysis.

Pitch quality is further affected by sites being played to or over capacity by other sports. Many rugby pitches in Coventry are overmarked with cricket or football pitches and where this occurs pitch quality tends to be poor. In particular, this is noted as an issue at Copsewood Sports and Social Club.

The majority of clubs are responsible for maintaining their own facilities and have designated groundsmen (often volunteer club members), to carry out cutting and maintenance. Five clubs; Copsewood, Earlsdon, Old Wheatleyans, Coventrians and Coventry Saracens suggest that pitch quality is slightly/much poorer due to changes in grounds maintenance regimes or poor weather conditions. Pitch quality has improved at three clubs; Barkers Butt, Coventry Tech and Stoke Old Boys due to increased investment and maintenance works.

The RFU has improved the capacity for pitch improvements for Coventry clubs by providing a piece of 'Verti-drain' equipment. This tractor-mounted device is based at Broad St RFC and all the local clubs can hire it, along with an experienced operator, at a nominal rate. Used regularly, along with over seeding and sanding, this operation can have a significant impact on the quality of playing pitches for rugby clubs.

Training

Training on designated match pitches has been included in the supply and demand capacity analysis in order to account for the additional wear and tear caused by these weekly sessions.

Ten clubs in Coventry report that they regularly train on match pitches. Only two clubs, Earlsdon and Standard do not use match pitches for training and use either specific training pitches or train elsewhere on their home ground.

COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

There are no AGPs suitable for rugby located in Coventry. However, the WRFU is keen to develop one AGP at the right site in Coventry. Strategically, for facility development a full size floodlit 3rd generation turf pitch located at Westwood Academy would be well used by the clubs in the Area (i.e. Earlsdon, Barkers Butts and Coventry Tech). In addition, WRFU identifies Broad Street RFC as a priority for a full size AGP to aid training and reduce wear and tear of match pitches. However, this is located just outside of Coventry.

Woodlands Academy is also keen to develop a football/rugby AGP and is looking for a partnership with a rugby club. Power League is also located at Woodlands Academy.

Consultation with the RFU identifies the main facility needs of clubs in Coventry:

Table 4.4: Summary of facility needs

Club	Facility need
Barkers Butt RFC	Match floodlights; sports hall re-roofing (being completed – through SITA) and drainage required on its third pitch has now been completed.
Copsewood RFC	New build of existing changing rooms (rugby union and football)
Coventrians RFC	Floodlit pitches and training area. Two additional changing rooms, security of the grounds including storage areas.
Coventry Rugby Club	Match floodlights and replacement pitch
Coventry Saracens RFC	None identified
Coventry Tech RFC	None identified
Dunlop RFC	Upgrade changing rooms/grounds
Earlsdon RFC	None identified
Old Coventrians RFC	Upgrade changing rooms including showers and heating. Dugout shelters, pitch barriers, replace and upgrade spectator viewing, modernise the bar area, players conditioning room and pitch drainage improvements.
Pinley RFC	Additional separate changing block and creation of a second pitch
Standard RFC	None identified
Stoke Old Boys RFC	Floodlit training area, extension to clubhouse
Trinity Guild RFC	Potential relocation

COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

4.4 Demand

Demand for rugby pitches in Coventry tends to fall within the categories of organised competitive play, organised training and informal play.

Competitive play

Thirteen clubs are active in Coventry and play on pitches provided at privately owned venues and/or by lease/rental agreement.

Table 4.5: Summary of teams playing in Coventry

Analysis area	No. of teams			
	Senior mens	Senior womens	Juniors	Minis
North East	5	0	0	0
North West	9	1	4	6
South	36	3	10	20
Coventry	50	4	14	26

In the main, the majority of clubs report that the number of senior teams (19 – 45 ages) competing has remained static (nine clubs). Coventrians RFC is the only club to report an increase in its senior teams in the previous three years. It believes the increase is due to active recruitment campaigns. Two clubs; Coventry Tech and Coventry Saracens report a decrease both by one senior team. Seven clubs report they have plans to increase each by one additional senior men's team. Copsewood RFC has plans to increase by an additional one senior men's team which will play its fixtures as away matches only. This is due to its home ground 'Allard Way' (one senior rugby union pitch) already being used to capacity at peak time. The remaining clubs report any increase in the number of teams will be accommodated at their home ground. This suggests that the majority of clubs are not at capacity and can accommodate additional play.

Four clubs, Pinley, Barkers' Butts, Earlson and Old Coventrians field a mini/midi and youth section. Membership levels at mini/midi and youths at Barkers' Butts and Earlsdon have remained static over the previous three years. Pinley RFC is in its third season of its mini/midi section and reports its membership is continuing to grow year on year. Trinity Guild RFC has recently established a mini/midi section (aged five upwards) and has circa 20 regular participants.

For those clubs which operate youth teams (U13 – U17 ages), there is a significant drop off at the first year of Colts level. Players moving from U16 to Colts find it a big step and the physical differences, coupled with Saturday jobs, social distractions, difficulties with transport and a reduction in parental support means that up to 50% of these young players do not make the transition to playing regularly at Colts level. To counteract this, Warwickshire clubs have introduced a competition at U17 level this season to help ease the transition. Early indications are that this intermediate level will help to increase the numbers continuing to play through Colts and on to senior teams.

COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Women's and girls' participation

There is minimal participation in women's and girls' rugby in Coventry. Coventry University and Barkers' Butts both field one senior women's team. At present, no clubs have plans to increase the number of women's or girls' teams.

Junior girls are able to play alongside boys up until the age of 12. This means that a number of girls may be playing rugby as part of a mixed team. Clubs generally expressed a desire to provide additional provision to cater for the women's game but are limited by unsuitable ancillary provision (unable to segregate the existing changing facilities).

Latent demand

Latent demand is defined as the number of teams that could be fielded if there were sufficient pitches. Clubs in Coventry generally suggest that there are enough pitches to service demand. However, three clubs do express latent demand for access to more pitches. The table below summarises specific latent demand expressed by clubs.

Table 4.6: Summary of latent demand expressed by clubs

Club	KKP ref	Analysis area	Level of latent demand	Pitch requirement
Earlsdon RFC	51	South	2 youth teams 1 mini/midi	1 senior
Stoke Old Boys	103	South	1 senior team 1 youth team	1 senior
Coventrians RFC	36	North East	4 youth teams	2 senior
				Total 4 senior pitches

Utilising Sport England's Segmentation Tool, it is feasible to analyse the percentage of adults that would like to participate in rugby union within Coventry. The tool identifies latent demand of 858 people in Coventry. Of these, 34 (4%) are females; the largest segments of which are 'Chloe - young image-conscious females keeping fit and trim' and 'Leanne - young busy mums and their supportive college mates'.

4.5 Club summary

Coventry Rugby Club

Butts Park Arena is a multi-use sports stadium in Spon End. Its main use is as a rugby stadium, being home ground for Coventry RFC and Coventry Bears RLFC. The club currently play in National League 1 the third tier of the English rugby union system.

Dunlop RFC

Dunlop RFC has no security of tenure. Its home ground, the former Dunlop Sports and Social Club has been sold as part of the disposal of the Dunlop site. The Club does not have an official lease and its current use is on the basis of a 'gentleman's agreement' with the new owners. This puts the Club at risk of eviction if the site owners wish to terminate sports use of the ground.

COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Trinity Guild RFC

Trinity Guild RFC's home ground is located on the outskirts of Coventry adjacent to the Airport. This site is used for both its training and competitive fixtures. The Club leases 20 acres from Coventry City Council, it currently uses eight acres. The area which accommodates its home ground forms an important part of the Coventry and Warwickshire Gateway planning application site and is required to implement the scheme, subject to planning approvals.

Its home ground accommodates a small clubhouse and two senior rugby union pitches and a floodlit training pitch. The clubhouse is inadequate for its current use due to its limited size and the on-going costs of maintaining an ageing building.

The Rugby Club is proposed to be relocated as part of the Gateway scheme and a proposed site (32 acres) has been identified in Binley. Relocation of the Club would provide the opportunity to improve its facilities and have access to two senior rugby union pitches, training facilities and a modern, purpose built two storey clubhouse. The first team pitch at the new site must be in place prior to the Club vacating its current home ground. It is in discussions with the City Council about a lease arrangement on this site. The Club is also considering accommodating other sports on the site such as netball and cricket as the size of the site has the capacity for other facilities. It is also considering forming a partnership with Caludon Castle School.

Coventry Saracens RFC

The Club leases its home ground from the City Council. As of July 2013 the lease has expired. The Club report it cannot afford to renew its lease and therefore at present has no security of tenure.

Barkers' Butts RFC

The Club has plans to install floodlighting on its main senior rugby union pitch. The site also comprises a three badminton court sports hall. It has secured funding from BIFFA and the Rugby Football Foundation to re-roof the sports hall.

Coventry Tech RFC

The Club leases its home ground from Coventry City Council (due to expire in 2017). It has development plans to ensure the long term future of the Club which includes:

- ◀ Re-structuring of the Club by November 2013 with a view of changing the status from an unincorporated members club to a limited company.
- ◀ Renewing the lease with Coventry City Council. However, the Club report discussions with CCC so far have not been successful.
- ◀ Fielding two regular senior teams (it currently fields one senior team).

Stoke Old Boys RFC

The Club has secured funding from Sport England to improve its clubhouse facilities. This will include an extension to increase the size of its existing clubhouse facility (planning permission has been obtained). It is in discussion with the RFU to improve the quality of its pitches.

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Coventrians RFC

The Club's home ground is privately owned, which comprises two senior rugby union pitches, two 11v11 football pitches (used by Coventrians FC) and a bowling green (crown). Coventrians RFC has plans to increase the number of teams (senior and youth) but reports the site is used to capacity for both football and rugby use. It reports there is limited electricity on the site and as a result cannot have segregated showers (as these would require more electricity).

4.6: Provision of rugby pitch sites assessed by quality and capacity

The capacity for pitches to regularly provide for competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by quality. At minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of a pitch affects the playing experience and people's enjoyment of playing rugby. In extreme circumstances it can result in the inability of the pitch to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off peak times. To enable an accurate supply and demand assessment of rugby pitches, the following assumptions are applied to site by site analysis:

- ◀ All sites that are used for competitive rugby matches (regardless of whether this is secured community use) are included on the supply side.
- ◀ All competitive play is on senior sized pitches (with the exception of where mini pitches are provided).
- ◀ From U13 upwards, teams play 15 a-side rugby and use a full pitch.
- ◀ Mini teams (U7-12) play across half one senior pitch (i.e. two teams per senior pitch).
- ◀ For senior and junior teams the current level of play per week is set at 0.5 for each match played based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis (assumes half of matches will be played 'away').
- ◀ For mini teams, play per week is set at 0.25 for each match played based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis and playing across half one senior pitch.
- ◀ All male adult club rugby takes place on a Saturday afternoon.
- ◀ All U13-18 rugby takes place on a Sunday morning.
- ◀ Training that takes place on club pitches is reflected by the addition of team equivalents.
- ◀ Team equivalents have been calculated on the basis that 30 players (two teams) train on the pitch for 90 minutes (team equivalent of one) per night.

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As a guide, the RFU has set a standard number of matches that each pitch should be able to accommodate. Capacity is based upon a basic assessment of the drainage system and maintenance programme ascertained through a combination of the quality assessment and the club survey as follows:

		Maintenance		
		Poor (M0)	Adequate (M1)	Good (M2)
Drainage	Natural Inadequate (D0)	1	2	3
	Natural Adequate (D1)	2	3	4
	Pipe Drained (D1)	2.5	3.5	4.5
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D2)	3.0	4	5

This guide should only be used as a very general measure of potential pitch capacity and does not account for specific circumstances at time of use and assumes average rainfall and an appropriate end of season rest and renovation programme.

The figures are based upon a pipe drained system at 5m centres that has been installed in the last eight years and a slit drained system at 1m centres completed in the last 5 years.

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Table 4.7: Rugby provision capacity

Site ID	Site name	Community use category	Analysis area	Pitch type	Quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play (matches/week)	Site capacity (matches per week)	Capacity rating
36	Coventrians Rugby Club	Yes	North East	Senior	M0 / D0 Poor	1	3.5	1	2.5
49	Dunlop Sports And Social Club	Yes	North East	Senior	M1 / D0 Adequate	2	3	4	-1
13	Barkers' Butts R.F.C	Yes	North West	Senior	M2 / D0 Good	4	8	12	-4
85	Old Wheatleyans	Yes	North West	Senior	M2 / D0 Good	2	4	6	-2
32	Copsewood Sports and Social Club	Yes	South	Senior	M2 / D0 Good	1	4	3	1
42	Coventry Saracens	Yes	South	Senior	M1 / D1 Adequate	1	2	3	-1
44	Coventry Technical Rugby Club	Yes	South	Senior	M2 / D0 Good	1	3	3	0
45	Coventry University (Westwood Heath Campus)	Yes	South	Senior	M2 / D0 Good	2	3.5	6	-2.5
51	Earlsdon Rugby Club	Yes	South	Mini	M2 / D0 Good	3	3	9	-6
51	Earlsdon Rugby Club	Yes	South	Senior	M2 / D0 Good	5	4	15	-11
84	Old Coventrians Rugby Club	Yes	South	Senior	M1 / D0 Adequate	3	10.5	6	4.5
90	Pinley Rugby Club	Yes	South	Senior	M2 / D0 Good	1	7	3	4

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Site ID	Site name	Community use category	Analysis area	Pitch type	Quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play (matches/week)	Site capacity (matches per week)	Capacity rating
99	Standard Triumph Club	Yes	South	Senior	M1 / D0 Adequate	1	0.5	2	-1.5
103	Stoke Old Boys Rugby Football Club	Yes	South	Senior	M0 / D0 Poor	1	3	1	2
111	University Of Warwick (Cryfield Sports Pitches)	Yes	South	Senior	M2 / D0 Good	3	2	9	-7
126	Xcel Leisure Centre	Yes	South	Senior	M1 / D0 Adequate	1	1	2	-2
23	Butts Park Arena	No	North West	Senior	M1 / D0 Adequate	1	0	2	-2
24	Caludon Castle Sports Centre	No	South	Senior	M1 / D0 Adequate	3	0	6	-6
104	Stonebridge Highway Sports Ground	No	South	Senior	M1 / D0 Adequate	3	0	6	-6
104	Stonebridge Highway Sports Ground	No	South	Mini	M1 / D0 Adequate	1	0	2	-2
124	Wyken Croft Playing Fields	No	South	Senior	M1 / D0 Adequate	1	0	2	-2
130	Grace Academy	No	North East	Senior	M1 / D0 Adequate	1	0	2	-2
132	Whitley Academy	No	South	Senior	M1 / D0 Adequate	1	0	2	-2
133	Coundon Court School	No	North West	Senior	M1 / D0 Adequate	4	0	8	-8
134	President Kennedy	No	North East	Senior	M1 / D0 Adequate	1	0	2	-2
135	Cardinal Newman School	No	North West	Senior	M1 / D0 Adequate	5	0	10	-10

COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Community use category	Analysis area	Pitch type	Quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play (matches/week)	Site capacity (matches per week)	Capacity rating
140	Bishop Ullathorne School	No	South	Senior	M2 / D1 Good	1	0	4	-4
141	Cardinal Wiseman School	No	North East	Senior	M2 / D0 Good	1	0	6	-6
143	Coventry Blue Coat School	No	North West	Senior	M1 / D1 Adequate	1	0	3	-3
144	Finham Park Secondary School	No	South	Senior	M1 / D0 Adequate	3	0	6	-6
147	Woodlands Academy	No	North West	Senior	M1 / D0 Adequate	2	0	4	-4
199	Allesley Primary School	No	North West	Mini	M1 / D1 Adequate	2	0	6	-6
211	Holy Family Catholic Primary	No	North East	Mini	M1 / D0 Adequate	1	0	2	-2
215	St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School	No	North East	Mini	M1 / D0 Adequate	1	0	2	-2
226	King Henry VIII School off site pitches	No	South	Senior	M1 / D0 Adequate	3	0	6	-6
226	King Henry VIII School off site pitches	No	South	Mini	M1 / D0 Adequate	1	0	6	-6
237	King Henry VIII School	No	South	Senior	M0 / D0 Poor	1	0	1	-1
237	King Henry VIII School	No	South	Mini	M0 / D0 Poor	1	0	1	-1

COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

4.6: Supply and demand analysis

Spare capacity

A total of ten sites in Coventry are, on initial view, rated as having spare capacity, equating to 38 matches per week, albeit Coventry Saracens and Dunlop Sports and Social Club are being played close to capacity. However, the majority of these are not available at peak time. The exceptions are the university sites, which have some spare match capacity on Saturdays due to fixtures being held on Wednesdays, and Earlsdon Rugby Club that has a dedicated training area so the pitches are retained for matches.

Overplay

Five sites are identified as being over-played, particularly at Old Coventrians RFC and Pinley RFC. In addition, one site (Coventry Technical RFC) is played to capacity. Overall, sites in Coventry are overplayed by 14 matches per week.

Where sites are overplayed, this is a result of a large number of teams using the pitches for competitive matches and training sessions.

Even though, according to the club surveys, there has been a general decline in rugby participation in Coventry, pitches are still being played to or over capacity. If more dedicated grass training pitches and AGPs were provided, this would alleviate current pressure on pitches and help to sustain current quality.

The RFU would like to work with the Rugby Football League (RFL) to ensure that overplay does not occur on pitches where rugby league is played during the summer. This may prevent pitches from getting the rest from play they require to recover and this should be monitored at Barkers' Butts RFC and Coventry University.

Future demand

Future demand can be defined in two ways, through participation increases and using population forecasts. Team generation rates are used below as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future based on population growth.

Table 4.8: Team generation rates

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate	Future population within age group	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Mens (19-45)	38,146	40	954	44,367	46.5	6.5
Senior Women (19-45)	37,632	4	9408	44,297	4.7	0.7
Junior Boys (13-18)	7,564	14	540	7,721	14.3	0.3
Junior Girls (13-18)	7,430	0	0	7,512	0.0	0.0
Mini rugby mixed (7-12)	14,238	26	548	18,205	33.2	7.2

COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Significant increases are predicted for senior men's teams and mini teams. The north east analysis area is estimated to have the largest population increase and as pitches in this area (Copsewood Sports and Social Club and Dunlop Sports and Social Club) are overplayed or nearing capacity, access to new pitches would need to be secured.

If additional use of the university pitches cannot be secured, new pitches would be required to meet future demand.

Rugby union summary

- ◀ There are 16 sites and 36 pitches available for community use in Coventry, with the majority of pitches provided at privately owned venues and/or by lease/rental agreement. Coventry has a strong tradition of rugby union with a high density of clubs and schools playing rugby.
- ◀ Barker Butts RFC and Coventry Technical RFC have both had a competing ladies team. The clubs believe that this will continue to compete and grow in future. Clubs generally expressed a desire to cater for the women's game but are limited by unsuitable ancillary provision (e.g. unable to segregate the existing changing facilities).
- ◀ Coventry pitches are being played to or over capacity. Five rugby sites are played over their current capacity, all as a result of clubs training on their match pitches. This stresses the importance of appropriate maintenance of pitches. Also if more dedicated grass training pitches and AGPs were provided this would alleviate current pressure on pitches and help to sustain current quality.
- ◀ Clubs generally suggest that there are enough pitches to service current demand. However, three clubs express latent demand for access to four pitches and in addition security of tenure at a number of sites is currently in question.
- ◀ In addition to reporting latent demand for pitches, two clubs, Stoke Old Boys and Pinley, suggest that if they had access to better quality and/or segregated changing rooms, they could produce more teams.
- ◀ If additional use of the university pitches cannot be secured, new pitches would be required to meet future demand.

COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

PART 5: HOCKEY

5.1: Introduction

Governance of the sport is devolved by England Hockey (EH) at a regional and local level to regional and county associations. The game is played predominantly on sand based/filled AGPs. Competitive play cannot take place on third generation turf pitches (3G) although 40mm pitches may be suitable, in some instances, for beginner training and are preferred to poor grass or tarmac surfaces.

Consultation

Four out of the five clubs, as well as the England Hockey Relationship Manager, were consulted. KKP could not re-establish contact with Coventry and North Warwickshire HC. However, consultation was completed with the Club in the previous study in 2010.

5.2: Supply

There are seven, full-sized, floodlit, sand based AGPs, suitable for competitive hockey in the City. All are provided at education sites (or dual use sites).

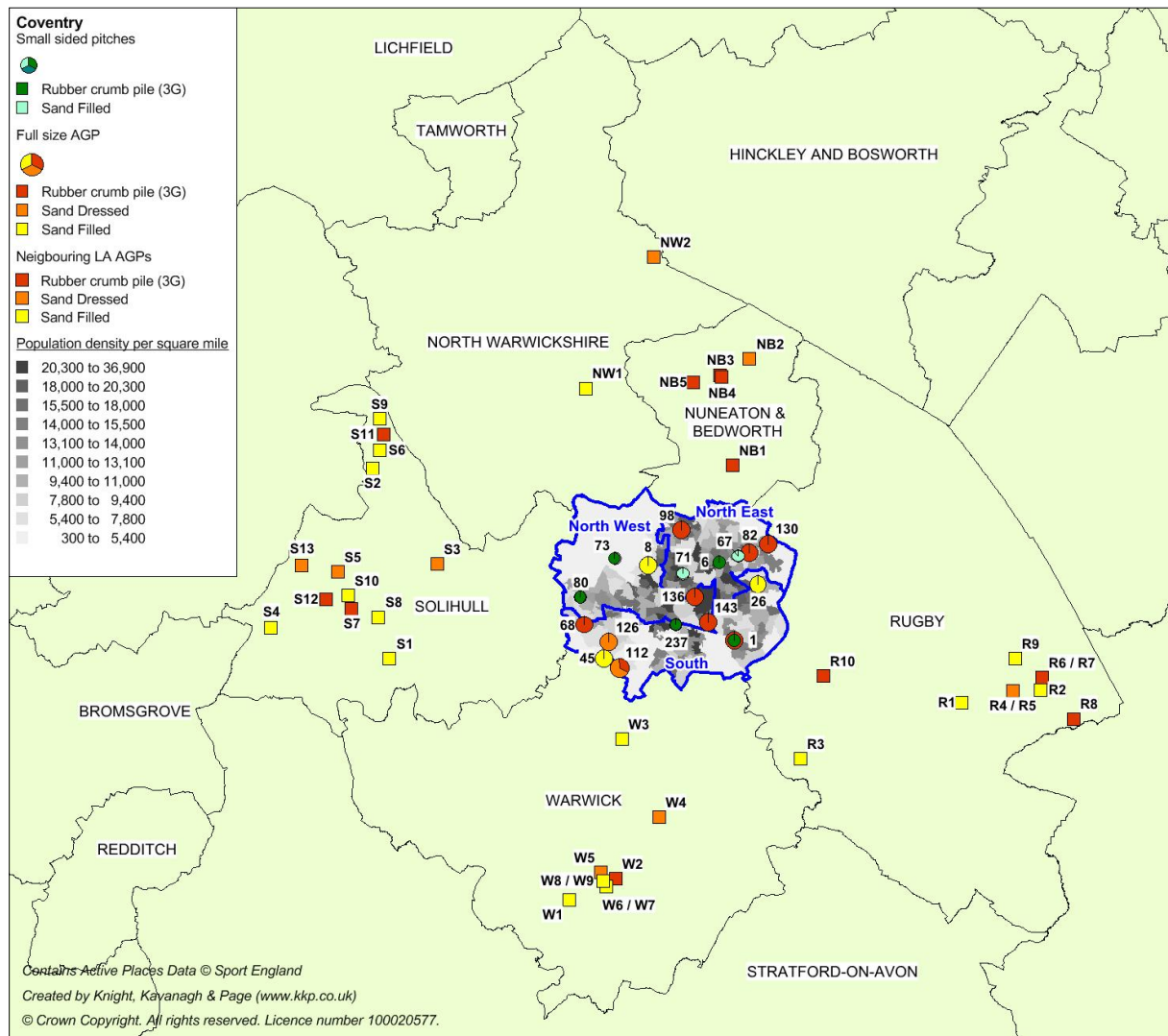
The map overleaf indicates that provision is concentrated in the north west and south analysis areas. There is no full-size sand-based AGP provision in the north east analysis area.

Pitch quality

Site assessments rate all sites as standard quality, with the exception of Henley College Sports Centre which is assessed as good quality.

COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Figure 5.1: Location of all AGPs in Coventry



COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 5.1: Key to AGPs in Coventry

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Size	Type	Number	Floodlit	Year built	Year refurbished	KKP site ass. quality	Hours available during in notional peak period
8	Bablake School	North West	7700	Sand Filled	1	Yes	1985	2001	Standard	25.5
8	Bablake School	North West	7700	Sand Filled	1	Yes	1985	2000	Standard	25.5
26	Caludon Castle Sports Centre	South	6000	Sand Filled	1	Yes	2007		Standard	29.5
45	Westwood Heath Playing Fields (Coventry University)	South	6000	Sand Filled	1	Yes	2004		Standard	29
68	Hereward College Sports Centre	South	6000	Sand Dressed	1	Yes	2008		Good	34

COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Size	Type	Number	Floodlit	Year built	Year refurbished	KKP site ass. quality	Hours available during in notional peak period
112	University Of Warwick (Westwood Campus)	South	6000	Sand Dressed	1	Yes	1994	2007	Standard	29
112	University Of Warwick (Westwood Campus)	South	6000	Sand Dressed	1	Yes	1994	2009	Standard	29
126	Xcel Leisure Centre	South	3000	Sand dressed	2	Yes	2009		Standard	34
67	Henley College Coventry	North East	1295	Sand Filled	2	Yes	2007		Good	32
71	Jag Daimler (Middlemarch)	North East	1200	Sand Filled	3	Yes			Standard	34

COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 5.2: Key to Neighbouring Local Authority AGPs

Map Ref	Site	Surface type	Pitches	Local authority
Nw1	Arley Sports Centre	Sand Filled	3	North Warwickshire
Nw2	Queen Elizabeth School And Sports College	Sand Dressed	1	North Warwickshire
Nb1	Bedworth Leisure Centre	Rubber Crumb Pile (3g)	1	Nuneaton And Bedworth
Nb2	Etone Sports Centre	Sand Dressed	1	Nuneaton And Bedworth
Nb3	Jubilee Sports Centre (Nuneaton)	Rubber Crumb Pile (3g)	1	Nuneaton And Bedworth
Nb4	St Thomas More Catholic School And Tech. College	Rubber Crumb Pile (3g)	1	Nuneaton And Bedworth
Nb5	The Nuneaton Academy Sports Centre	Rubber Crumb Pile (3g)	1	Nuneaton And Bedworth
R1	Bilton School Maths And Computing College	Sand Filled	1	Rugby
R2	Hartfield Sports Ground	Sand Filled	1	Rugby
R3	Princethorpe College	Sand Filled	1	Rugby
R4	Rugby School Sports Centre	Sand Dressed	1	Rugby
R5	Rugby School Sports Centre	Sand Dressed	1	Rugby
R6	Rugby Town Football Club	Rubber Crumb Pile (3g)	1	Rugby
R7	Rugby Town Football Club	Rubber Crumb Pile (3g)	1	Rugby
R8	Rugby Town Junior Football Club	Rubber Crumb Pile (3g)	2	Rugby
R9	Warwickshire College (Rugby Centre)	Sand Filled	1	Rugby
R10	Wolston Community Leisure Centre	Rubber Crumb Pile (3g)	1	Rugby
S1	Arden Academy Trust	Sand Filled	1	Solihull
S2	Grace Academy Solihull	Sand Filled	1	Solihull
S3	Hampton In Arden Sports Club Ltd	Sand Dressed	1	Solihull
S4	Light Hall School	Sand Filled	1	Solihull
S5	Lode Heath School	Sand Dressed	1	Solihull
S6	North Solihull Sports Centre	Sand Filled	1	Solihull
S7	Saint Martin's School	Rubber Crumb Pile (3g)	1	Solihull
S8	Silhillians Rfuc	Sand Filled	1	Solihull

COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Map Ref	Site	Surface type	Pitches	Local authority
S9	Smiths Wood Sports College	Sand Filled	1	Solihull
S10	Solihull School	Sand Filled	1	Solihull
S11	The Pavilions	Rubber Crumb Pile (3g)	1	Solihull
S12	Tudor Grange Leisure Centre	Rubber Crumb Pile (3g)	1	Solihull
S13	West Warwickshire Sports Club	Sand Dressed	1	Solihull
W1	Aylesford School	Sand Filled	1	Warwick
W2	John Atkinson Sports Centre	Rubber Crumb Pile (3g)	1	Warwick
W3	Meadow Community Sports Centre	Sand Filled	1	Warwick
W4	North Leamington School	Sand Dressed	1	Warwick
W5	St Nicholas Park Leisure Centre	Sand Dressed	1	Warwick
W6	The Kings Heath High School For Girls Grass Pitches	Sand Filled	1	Warwick
W7	The Kings Heath High School For Girls Grass Pitches	Sand Filled	1	Warwick
W8	Warwick School Sports Centre	Sand Filled	1	Warwick
W9	Warwick School Sports Centre	Sand Filled	1	Warwick

COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Sport England's Facilities Planning Model National Run 2013 Draft Profile Report (July 2013)

Supply/Demand

The Model identifies a current supply of 1.5 AGPs available for hockey, which can currently provide for 8,873 visits per week in the peak period (vpwpp) whereas the resident population generates an estimated overall demand for hockey of 1927 vpwpp (or 2.6 pitches). There is a current supply of 1.5 AGPs which takes into account those that are available for community use during the peak period. For realistic provision, supply needs to be greater than demand. Therefore, there appears to be a shortfall in AGPs for hockey in the peak period (by 1.1 AGP).

It should be noted that competitive hockey can only be played on a sandbased/dressed full size artificial grass pitch.

Accessibility

Almost one in three Coventry households does not have access to a car. This is higher than the regional average and the comparable local authorities and means that the residents in Coventry are less mobile. Residents with access to a car can access all of Coventry's AGPs within a 20 minute drive time. However, the facilities are all full at peak times, therefore some unmet demand is from car users.

95.2% of the total visits which are met are satisfied and of that 17.9% are walkers, again a higher than regional average and the two comparable local authorities. Satisfied demand for hockey is 87.4% which is higher than the regional and Dudley averages, but lower than Derby.

Unmet demand

Coventry's unmet demand is currently 4.8% of the total demand. This equates overall to 0.58 of a pitch, of which, hockey has a total estimated unmet demand to be 12.6% (242 vpwpp). Overall the unmet demand breaks down into two categories; lack of capacity and people living outside the catchment area. The combined figures for football and hockey are 73.8% due to lack of capacity and 26.2% due to people living outside the catchment areas. Note: one in three households does not have access to a car.

There are no 'hot spots' within the city for unmet demand for hockey. However the highest areas for unmet demand are in Holbrooks, Foleshill, Radford, Sherbourne and St Michael's wards.

Capacity

The current level of the used capacity of the AGPs is 100% which means there is no spare capacity to accommodate additional usage on the existing AGPs.

Coventry imports 22.7% of its total used capacity from non-Coventry residents. This breaks down to almost two of every ten visits for hockey being by non-Coventry residents who use AGPs located within Coventry.

COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

5.3 Demand

There are currently five hockey clubs in Coventry; Sikh Union Coventry HC, University of Warwick Ladies HC, University of Warwick Mens HC, Coventry University HC and Coventry and North Warwickshire HC.

Coventry City and University Hockey Club folded at the end of season 2012/13, due to a decline in membership numbers from retirements and transfers. Many players from this club now play for alternative clubs in Coventry.

The University of Warwick Mens and Ladies Hockey Clubs field four teams each and train and play matches at the AGP located at the University of Warwick Westwood Campus. Coventry University HC (two mens and two ladies teams) and Coventry and North Warwickshire HC (mens, ladies and junior teams) train and play matches at Coventry University AGP. Sikh Union Coventry HC fields three mens teams and has aspirations to develop junior teams, but do not currently have enough junior players.

Berkswell and Balsall Common Hockey Club is located just outside of the City boundary but, due to this proximity, many Coventry residents travel outside of Coventry to play at this club. England Hockey report that Coventry City and University HC women's players will relocate to Berkswell and Balsall Common.

Coventry and North Warwickshire HC is the only junior hockey club and thus is the main provider of the opportunity to play junior hockey in the city. It is in discussions with Coventry City University (formerly Jaguar Hockey Club) about the opportunity to become one club.

Latent demand

No latent demand for AGPs has been identified in the city. However, Coventry and North Warwickshire Hockey Club believes if it were to increase the number of teams it provides, this could not be accommodated on existing AGP provision in the city and therefore it would need to seek provision located outside the city in either Kenilworth or Rugby. The Club currently fields seven senior teams and six junior teams.

Utilising Sport England's Active People data it is feasible to analyse the percentage of adults which would like to participate in hockey within Coventry. The majority of the potential population that would like to participate in hockey leads to a total latent demand total of 456 people.

COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Hockey summary

- ◀ Sport England's FPM shows a supply of 1.5 AGPs for hockey but demand for 2.6 pitches.
- ◀ KKP identified seven full-size sand-based AGPs (the majority of which are located at education sites) in the city. This suggests that many of the pitches are being used for football and not hockey or, as the pitches are located at an education site, are unavailable at peak times.
- ◀ Pitch quality is generally standard across the city, with the exception Hereward College Sports Centre.
- ◀ No latent demand has been identified in the city. It is not thought that current or future demand for hockey will require more AGP provision in the city. Accessibility and management issues at existing sites are more of a priority.
- ◀ A further key objective is to ensure that priority hockey sites are protected and the quality of this provision is sustained/improved.

COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

PART 6: OTHER SPORTS

6.1 Bowls

The assessment of outdoor bowling greens in Coventry comprised of an audit of greens and ancillary facilities based on a KKP non-technical visual proforma. The assessment also included a survey of bowling leagues carried out by KKP. Findings are summarised and analysed below.

Supply

In total, there are 21 crown greens and 11 flat bowling greens in Coventry located across 25 sites. The South Analysis Area accommodates the largest number of bowling greens and provides 19 bowling greens (10 crown and 9 flat).

War Memorial Park (KKP Ref 116) and Spencer Park Tennis and Bowls (KKP Ref 95) are both owned and managed by CCC. A crown bowling green at the War Memorial Park has been converted to a putting green due to a lack of demand.

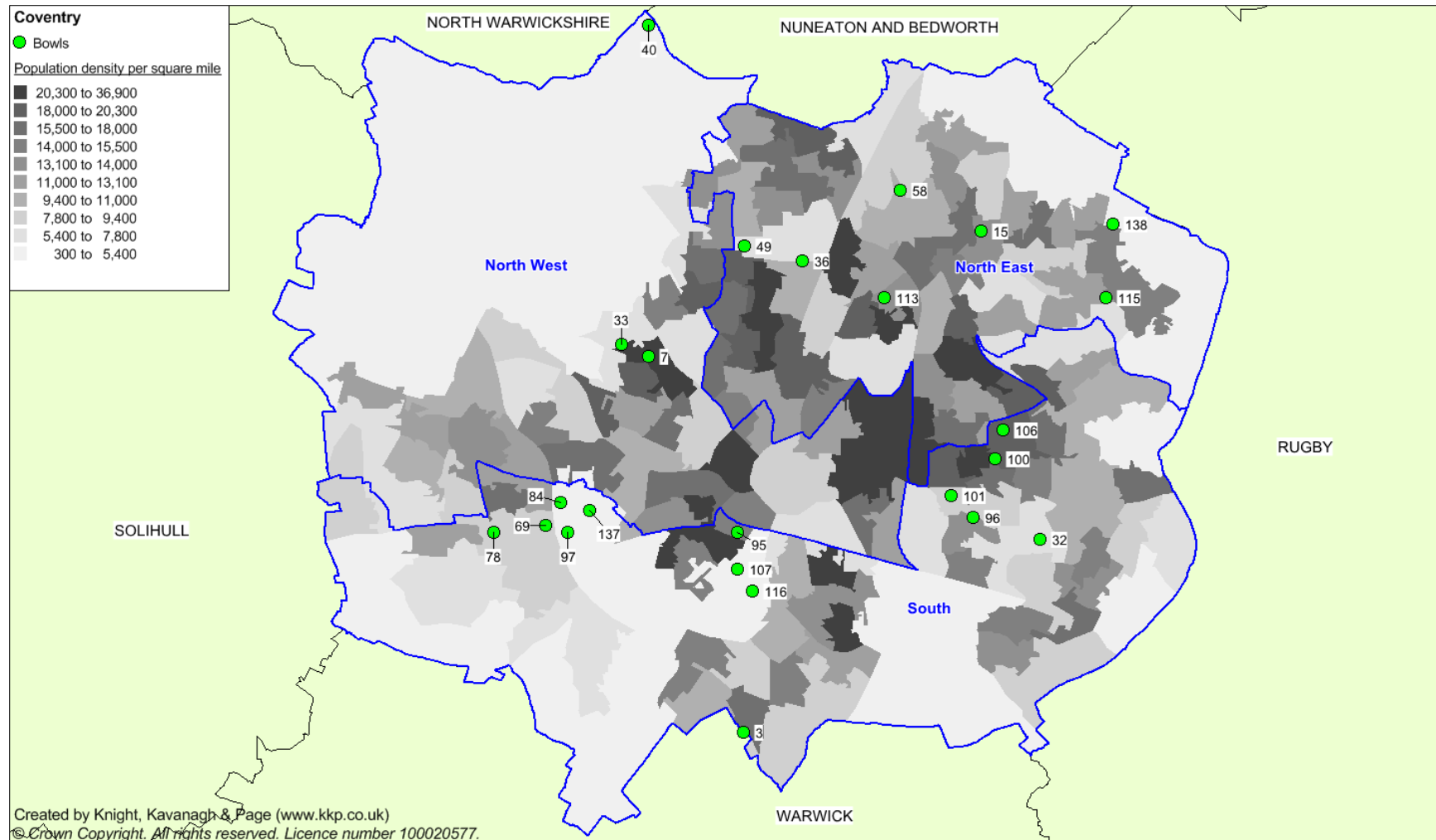
Table 6.1: Summary of bowling greens available for community use

Analysis area	No. of crown bowling greens	No. of flat bowling greens
North East	7	1
North West	4	1
South	10	9
COVENTRY	21	11

Figure 6.1 overleaf shows the distribution of provision is generally located in the north east and south analysis areas. There are areas of high density in the north west analysis area with no bowling green provision.

COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Figure 6.1: Location of bowling greens in Coventry



COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 6.2: Key to map of bowling greens

KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Community use	Crown	Flat	Quality rating
3	Alvis Sports Club	South	Yes	1		Excellent
7	Avenue Bowling Club	North West	Yes		1	Excellent
15	Bell Green Bowling Club	North East	Yes	1		Good
32	Copsewood Sports and Social Club	South	Yes	1		Good
33	Coundon Bowling Club	North West	Yes	2		Excellent
36	Coventrians Rugby Club (Black Pad)	North East	Yes	1		Good
40	Coventry Colliery Sports & Social Club	North West	Yes	2		Good
49	Dunlop Sports And Social Club	North East	Yes	2		Excellent
58	Foleshill Bowling Club	North East	Yes	1		Good
69	Highway Sports & Social Club	South	Yes		1	Excellent
78	Lime Tree Bowling Club	South	Yes	1		Good
84	Old Coventarians Rugby Football Club	South	Yes	2		1 Excellent 1 Good
95	Spencer Park Tennis & Bowls	South	Yes	1	1	Good
96	Sphinx Sports & Social Club	South	Yes	1	1	Crown is Good Flat is Excellent
97	St Barbaras Bowls Club	South	Yes		1	Excellent
100	Stoke Bowling Club	South	Yes		2	Excellent
101	Stoke Coventry Club	South	Yes	1		Good
106	The Walsgrave Pub Bowling Green	South	Yes	1		Good
107	Three Spires Bowling Club	South	Yes		1	Excellent
113	Vauxhall Working Mens Club	North East	Yes	1		Good
115	Walsgrave Sports and Social Club	North East	Yes		1	Excellent
116	War Memorial Park	South	Yes		2	Excellent
137	Standard Triumph Recreation Club	South	Yes	1		Excellent
138	Potters Green Bowling Club	North East	Yes	1		Excellent

COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Key issues for bowls

Leagues

It is common for clubs to enter teams into a number of leagues. For example, Coventry Colliery Bowling Club competes in seven different leagues. As a result, there are a large number of mens, ladies and vets bowling leagues servicing the city including:

- ◀ Coventry Thursday League
- ◀ Coventry & District Premier and Mid Week
- ◀ Coventry & District Ladies Flat Green
- ◀ Coventry & District Saturday
- ◀ Coventry Sunday League
- ◀ North Midlands Tuesday Mixed
- ◀ Coventry & District Ladies Crown
- ◀ Nuneaton & District Ladies
- ◀ Coventry Monday 6 Bowls League

The following table summarises the key site specific issues raised by leagues during consultation:

Table 6.3: Summary of league specific issues

Name of league	Comments
Coventry & District Crown Green Bowling League (CDBL)	In total, it has 34 clubs fielding a Saturday and Midweek league, of which 75% of clubs are from the Coventry area. It does not operate a waiting list. Over the previous five years the number of teams competing in the League has decreased marginally. However, it reports the number of teams competing in its midweek league has increased with some clubs entering up to 3 teams and therefore requiring access to additional greens. It believes there has been a general decline in the quantity of bowling greens in Coventry due to closure of work sites such as Alvis.
Club and Institute Union (CIU)	The League is a non-competitive friendly league and comprises 21 teams across two divisions. It operates on a Tuesday and its catchment area extends into Coventry, Nuneaton and Kenilworth. It reports the number of teams has increased slightly within the previous two years due to an increase of new members into the sport. It also believes that unemployment and redundancy in the city has resulted in people having more time to play sport.
Coventry Thursday League (CTL)	Over the previous three years the number of teams competing in the League has remained static, with a current league membership level of 53 teams. It operates midweek on a Thursday evening.
Coventry & District Bowls Association (CDBA)	The number of clubs competing in the League has generally remained static over the previous three years, currently standing at ten clubs, of which eight clubs play on greens located in Coventry.
Coventry & District Ladies Bowls League (CDLBL)	The League comprises of 14 teams competing in two divisions. It operates an 18 mile radial catchment from central Coventry. It currently operates a waiting list which comprises of four teams. It reports that if the number of teams on the waiting list exceeds seven then it may introduce a third division.

COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Name of league	Comments
Coventry Monday Bowls League (CMBL)	The League was originally established to extend the period of competitive matches following County competitions. It operates on a Monday and fields three divisions (each comprising six teams). It does not operate a waiting list and has no development plans. It's playing membership trend has remained static over the previous five years.

Bowls green closures

Recent closures include two sites in the north west and two sites in the south of the city. Clay Lane Bowling Green (north west) has been replaced by housing, Jaguar Sports (north west) has been replaced by a small AGP, Canley Sports and Social Club (south) was destroyed in a fire and the crown green at Highway Sports and Social Club (south) is disused.

Demand

Life expectancy in Coventry is 77.2 years old for males and 81.6 for females.¹⁸ In addition, ONS population projections identify that the number of residents aged 45 to 85 plus will increase by 13.9% by 2026. Therefore retention of existing provision in the City would help to sustain current levels of participation.

Utilising Sport England's Active People data it is feasible to analyse the percentage of adults that would like to participate in Bowls within Coventry. The total population of latent demand totals 527 people, which is predominately made up of older and retired people.

Quality

All of the bowling greens in the City are rated as either a 'good' or 'excellent' quality.

Accessibility

Pay and play usage of bowling greens is important as it can help to raise the profile of the sport, increase membership levels and support revenue generation of sites. All local authority owned greens are available for pay and play and both sites are well used, particularly War Memorial Park. Permits can be purchased from each of the sites. A review of CCC usage figures of its bowling greens from 2010 to 2012 identifies that the number of bowlers accessing the greens for pay and play had decreased slightly from 1,159 bowlers (2010 – 2011) 1,140 to (2012 – 2013). CCC believes the decrease is due to inclement weather.

Ancillary facilities

It is usual for bowling clubs to have access to associated ancillary facilities, such as changing rooms and social areas. The majority of sites offer ancillary facilities with access to running water and electricity.

¹⁸ Source: Department of Health: Year: 2008-10 Measure: Life expectancy in years

COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Bowls summary

- ◀ In total, there are 21 crown greens and 11 flat bowling greens in Coventry located across 25 sites.
- ◀ League consultation reports there has been a reduction in the number of greens available in the city in the previous five years, particularly greens owned by private work sites.
- ◀ Clubs generally do not believe that increasing the quantity of bowling greens in the area would increase club membership.
- ◀ Life expectancy in Coventry is 77.2 years old for males and 81.6 for females. It is highly likely that residents in the city will live longer in the years ahead. ONS population projections also identify that the number of residents aged 45 plus will increase by 2026. Therefore it is important to support the retention of existing provision in the city in order to sustain current levels of participation.
- ◀ Site assessments rate all of bowling greens in Coventry as either good or excellent.
- ◀ Pay and play is available on all local authority greens. However, pay and play is limited at private sites. Pay and play is important as it can help to raise the profile of the game, increase levels of membership and revenue of sites.
- ◀ It is not thought likely that current and future demand for bowls will result in the need for new provision.

COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

6.2 Golf

There are five clubs in Coventry including three driving ranges. There are also a further two clubs that fall just outside the city boundary, Ansty and Brandon Wood, but which are likely to service Coventry residents.

The Golf Club Membership Questionnaire Results Book 2010 highlights that for clubs in Warwickshire:

- ◀ 8% of clubs have junior membership.
- ◀ 94% of clubs have membership vacancies.
- ◀ 68% of clubs have junior vacancies.
- ◀ 6% of clubs have a waiting list.
- ◀ 88% of clubs are seeking more members.
- ◀ 6% of clubs have increased membership.
- ◀ 71% of clubs have decreased membership.

Whilst these results cannot be directly attributed to specific clubs in Coventry, they are likely to be representative of the patterns of demand experienced by clubs in Coventry.

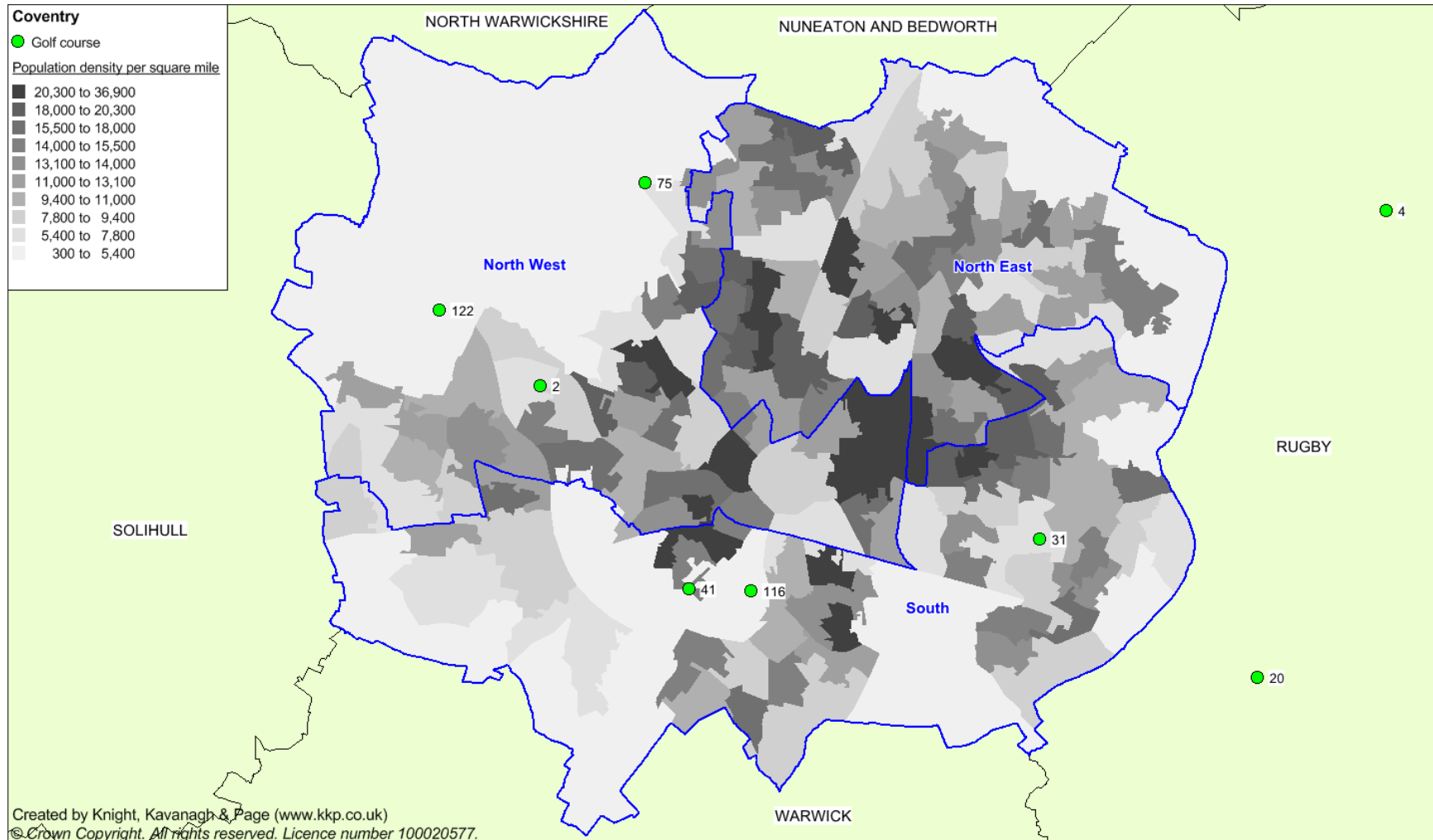
COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 6.4: Summary of golf courses by analysis area

Site name	KKP ref	Analysis area	Community use	No. of holes	Driving bay	Facility status	Access type
Allesley Hall Golf Club	2	North West	Yes	18	-	Operational	Pay and Play
Ansty Golf Club	4	OUTSIDE	Yes	18 plus a 9 hole course	Yes – 20 bays	Operational	Pay and Play
Brandon Wood Golf Club	20	OUTSIDE	Yes	18	Yes – 19 bays (F)	Operational	Pay and Play
Copsewood Grange Golf Club	31	South	Yes	9	-	Operational	Pay and Play
Coventry Hearsall Golf Club	41	South	Yes	18	-	Operational	Sports Club
John Reay Golf Club	75	North West	Yes	None	Yes – 30 bays (F)	Operational	Pay and Play
Windmill Village Golf Club	122	North West	Yes	18	-	Operational	Pay and Play
War Memorial Park	116	South	Yes	Pitch and putt	-	Operational	Pay and play
Coventry Golf Club, Finham			Yes	18	-	Operational	Sports Club

COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Figure 6.2: Location of golf courses in Coventry



COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Figure 6.2 generally indicates a good distribution of golf courses in the north west and south analysis areas, but no facilities in the north east analysis area.

Demand

Utilising Sport England's Segmentation Tool, it is feasible to analyse the percentage of adults that would like to participate in Golf within Coventry. The Tool identifies latent demand of 3,380 people. 23.5% (795 people) of the population that would like to participate in golf is the segment 'Philip - mid-life professional, sporty males with older children and more time for themselves'. Of the 3,380 people, 254 (7.5%) are females; the largest segment of which is 'Elaine - mid-life professionals who have more time for themselves since their children left home'.

Accessibility

A review of CCC usage figures of its golf course from 2010 to 2012 identifies that the number of golfers accessing the course for pay and play had decreased significantly from 11,755 (2010 – 2011) to 8,470¹⁹ (2012 – 2013). It believes the decrease is due to inclement weather.

Golf summary

- ◀ There are seven golf clubs in Coventry. Coventry provides five 18 hole golf courses and two nine hole courses. There are three driving bays in Coventry.
- ◀ There is a good distribution of golf courses in the north west and south analysis areas but no facilities in the north east analysis area.
- ◀ Sport England's Segmentation Tool identifies the majority of potential population that would like to participate in golf is the market segment of 'Philip' (795 people) and 'Elaine' (254 people).

¹⁹ Note: this figure also includes putting and crazy golf.

COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

6.3 Tennis

Governance of the sport is nationally administered by the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA). Warwickshire Lawn Tennis Association administers, and is responsible for, the development of tennis across the County. Tennis in Coventry is a priority for the LTA.

There are seven tennis clubs in Coventry which are based at a range of sites including private clubs sites, health and fitness clubs and the University of Warwick. These facilities are supplemented by a range of school and other public facilities such as those available at the War Memorial Park.

Supply

There are 187 tennis courts, 147 of which are located at education sites. The south analysis area provides the largest number of courts in comparison to north east analysis area that provides the least number of courts.

Table 6.5: Summary of courts by analysis area

Analysis area	Tennis courts
North East	46
North West	60
South	81
COVENTRY	187

COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Figure 6.3: Location of tennis courts in Coventry

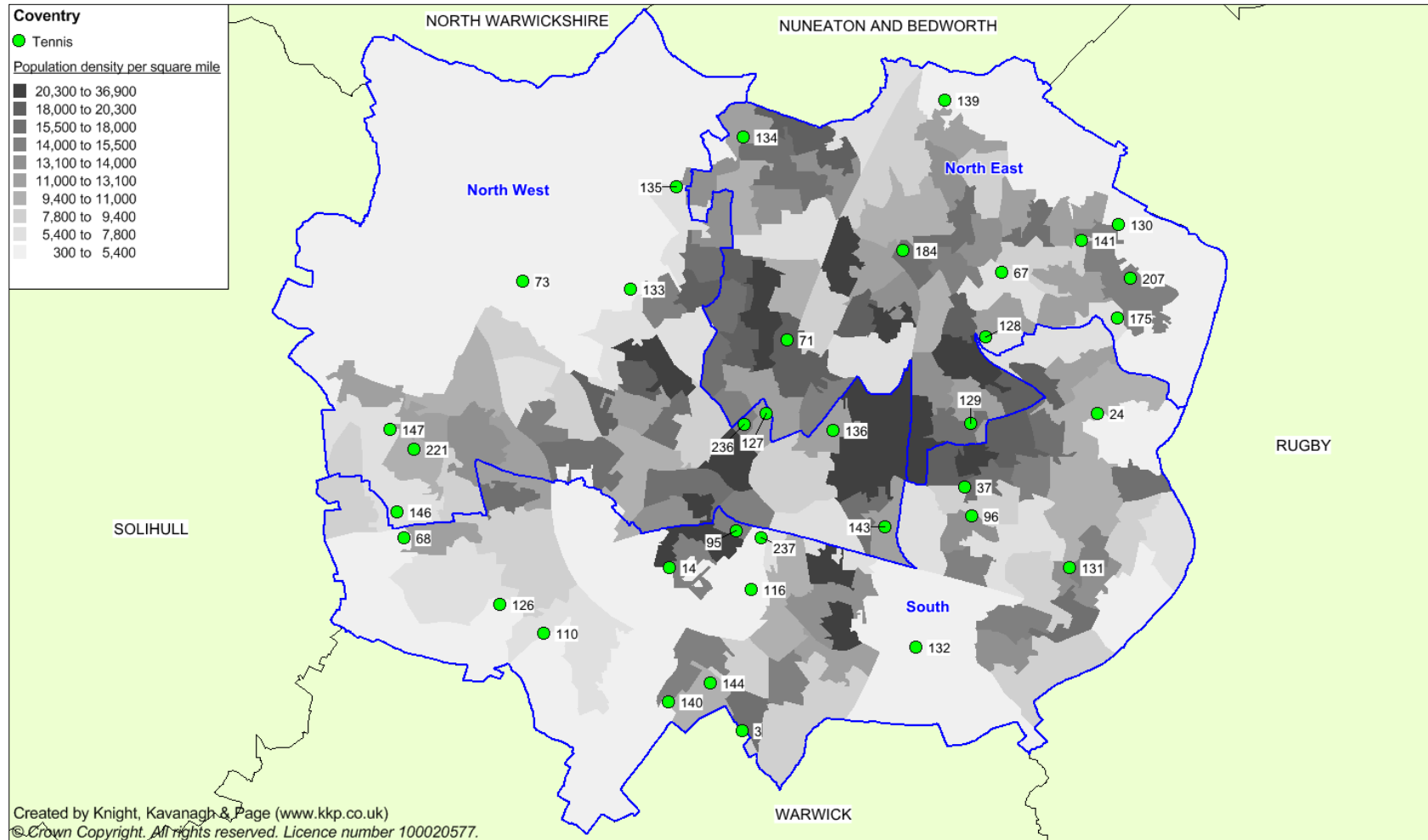


Table 6.6: Key to map of tennis courts in Coventry

KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Tennis courts	Surface type	Floodlit	Community use	Quality
3	Alvis Sports Club	South	2	Macadam	No	Yes	Average
14	Beechwood Lawn Tennis Club	South	8	5 x artificial turf 2 x macadam 1 x artificial clay	Yes	Yes	Excellent
24	Caludon Castle Sports Centre	South	6	Macadam	Yes	Yes	Excellent
37	Coventry & North Warwickshire Tennis Club	South	7	2 x artificial grass with floodlights 2 x tarmacadam with floodlights 1 x artificial grass with sub-standard lights 2 x grass accessible 4 months per year 1 x MUGA	Yes	Yes	Excellent
67	Henley College Coventry	North East	2	Macadam	No	Yes	Excellent
68	Hereward College Sports Centre	South	3	Macadam	No	Yes	Excellent
71	Daimler Green Community Recreation Centre	North East	3	Artificial Turf	No	Yes	Good
73	Jaguar Sports & Social Club	North West	2	Macadam	No	Yes	Good
95	Spencer Park Tennis & Bowls	South	4	Macadam	No	Yes	Average
96	Sphinx Sports & Social Club	South	2	Macadam	No	Yes	Good
110	University Of Warwick (Westwood Campus)	South	3	Macadam	Yes	Yes	Excellent
114	Virgin Active Warwickshire	South	4	Artificial Turf	Yes	Yes	Excellent
116	War Memorial Park	South	8 (plus 2 mini tens)	Macadam	Yes 4 courts	Yes	Excellent
126	Xcel Leisure Centre	South	6	Macadam	No	Yes	Good
127	Barrs Hill School	North West	2	Macadam	No	No	Average

KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Tennis courts	Surface type	Floodlit	Community use	Quality
128	Lyng Hall School	North West	4	Macadam	No	Yes	Excellent
129	Stoke Park School	North East	5	Macadam	Yes 2 courts	No	Average
130	Grace Academy	North East	4	Macadam	No	No	Excellent
131	Ernesford Grange Sports Centre	South	5	Macadam	No	Yes	Good
132	Whitley Academy	South	4	Macadam	No	No	Average
133	Coundon Court School & Community College	North West	10	Macadam	No	No	Good
134	President Kennedy School & College	North East	12	Macadam	No	No	Good
135	Cardinal Newman School	North West	12	Macadam	No	No	Good
136	Sidney Stringer Academy	North West	4	Macadam	No	No	Excellent
139	Foxford School	North East	4	Macadam	No	Yes	Good
140	Bishop Ullathorne Catholic School	South	10	Macadam	No	Yes	Average
141	Cardinal Wiseman School	North East	10	Macadam	No	No	Average
143	Bluecoat Church Of England School	North West	6	Macadam	No	No	Good
144	Finham Park School	South	12	Macadam	No	No	Good
146	Tile Hill Wood School And Language College	North West	9	Macadam	No	Yes	Good
147	The Woodlands Academy	North West	6	Macadam	No	Yes	Average
175	St Peters and St Pauls Primary School	North East	1	Macadam	No	No	Good
184	Little Heath Primary School.	North East	3	Macadam	No	No	Good
207	Sir Frank Whittle Primary School	North East	2	Macadam	No	No	Average
221	Woodfield School	North West	1	Macadam	No	No	Good
236	Bablake School	North West	4	Macadam	Yes	No	Good
237	King Henry VIII School	South	3	2 x macadam 1 x artificial turf	Yes	No	Good

COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Figure 6.3 generally indicates a concentration of tennis facilities across the south analysis area. The majority of facilities in the north east and the north west are only available at school sites, which has implications on the access of the other sites in these areas. Jaguar Sports and Social Club and Daimler Green Community Recreation Centre facilities are the only facilities that are not on school sites in the north east and north west areas, whilst the majority of club and local authority provision is located in the south of the city.

Quality

Three quarters of the clubs report facility development plans, including plans to resurface courts and the installation of lighting. This includes Coventry and North Warwickshire Tennis Club which is looking to refurbish one court in 2014 and developing a MUGA in partnership with netball.

Beechwood Tennis Club has recently resurfaced two courts at the site and all of the courts are rated as good quality through site assessments. It has also received Sport England funding and is currently refurbishing the clubhouse.

Half of the clubs report that the quality of the facility is slightly poorer since the previous season which is recognised to be a result of the natural aging of the courts.

Public tennis courts are provided at War Memorial Park (eight courts, four of which are floodlit and 2 mini tennis courts) and Spencer Park (four courts). War Memorial Park is a key site for tennis delivery across the City. It has Beacon Status and delivers Tennis for All run by coaching company inspire2coach, activities include free open days, social tennis and coaching. The City Council has received LTA funding to upgrade the courts as part of the wider enhancements to the Park and the LTA is keen to see participation increase at the site.

Spencer Park, however, has old and dated tennis courts that are in need of refurbishment. It is currently used by String Rackets Tennis Club and anecdotal evidence suggests that there is demand for the facilities to be refurbished.

Both sites charge for courts during the summer months, War Memorial Park has a membership scheme at £35 per year which includes access to courts, a free competition entry, an introductory session and the opportunity to play in the Coventry League.

Demand

Coventry Tennis League

Coventry Tennis League is the main senior league servicing the city. It runs from April to August and fields 14 divisions (eight men's and six ladies) comprising 25 clubs (101 teams), of which, five clubs play on courts in Coventry. It reports its playing membership has remained static over the previous three years. Although it does not operate a waiting list it reports it is at capacity. In order for teams to compete they must have access to two outdoor courts. Floodlighting is preferred although this is not essential.

All venues enter the National Aegon Team Tennis Leagues for Juniors and Seniors and a vibrant inter club mini tennis league runs throughout the year with mini tennis indoor red being staged at Virgin Active.

COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

The League rates the general quality of tennis courts across Coventry as good. It reports two clubs; Beechwood and Coventry and North Warwickshire, have recently resurfaced their courts.

It believes there is a lack of court provision in the north of the city which impacts on young people accessing inner city provision.

Three quarters of clubs report that senior membership has increased over the last three years. However, junior membership levels have declined, with half of clubs reporting a decrease in the number of junior members. The decline in junior membership is attributed to club relocation and declining opportunities for junior members (i.e. lack of court capacity). Consultation suggests that clubs are keen to increase membership mainly in the senior section (on average by 20 members) although some clubs also recognise the need to increase junior memberships.

As of 2013, Virgin Active has the highest playing membership standing at 445 playing members (of which 270 are adult members) followed by Beechwood Lawn Tennis Club (369 members of which 205 are adult members). Cauldon Castle Tennis Club provides the smallest playing membership standing at eight female members; these players compete in the Coventry League and are not looking to expand.

Public provision of courts is available at War Memorial Park and Spencer Park. Consultation suggests that both sites are excellent quality and service demand in the city for publicly available outdoor tennis provision. The LTA is keen to work with the City Council as part of the Beacon Strategy for War Memorial Park to develop a 'self-service centre' at this site.

The LTA recognises that the cost of membership to some clubs such as Virgin Active Warwickshire and the University of Warwick is prohibitive, particularly for young people. However, adult participation rates at these sites are good and the LTA recognises that these facilities make an important contribution to the development of the sport across the city.

Consultation reports that some clubs, particularly those based at old works sites including Alvis and Sphinx Tennis clubs have formed partnerships with Coventry University to facilitate use of the facilities and to increase membership through associate members.

A number of courts in the City at three sites; Beechwood, University of Warwick and War Memorial Park accommodate usage from 'inspire2coach', which runs tennis coaching and education programmes.

The University of Warwick and Virgin Active hold LTA Performance Club status providing the opportunity for talented young players to achieve their potential.

COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

The LTA is working with all venues to increase participation and has recently launched a new participation strategy working in three environments Club, Community and Education. Working in partnership with Sport England and the County Sport Partnership, the LTA aim to launch three Satellite Clubs in January 2014 at school venues in the city. The venues initially will be at Stoke Park School, linking with Coventry and North Warwickshire Club, Finham School linking with War Memorial Park and Blue Coat School linking with Beechwood Tennis Club. All satellite sites will offer tennis opportunities for young people at the school and nearby schools. The programmes will provide opportunities for young people aged 11+ to Play, Compete and Lead at their local school with the opportunity to play at the local club.

In the summer of 2013 the LTA ran a national promotion across 39 park venues. War Memorial Park was one of these venues. The event was held over one weekend in August and the Park attracted the highest number of participants of any venue, with over 1,000 people taking part. Similar activities with follow on opportunities are planned for 2014.

Latent demand

Coventry and North Warwickshire Tennis Club suggests that it has latent demand and that the number of courts at the site is not adequate to meet the needs of the Club. The Club currently only has access to two floodlit courts which offer a capacity of 120 members²⁰ and access to a further three courts at which it has to accommodate 176 members. During the close-season it can therefore be difficult to accommodate play when the daylight hours are reduced.

Tennis summary

- ◀ Coventry provides 187 tennis courts, 147 of which are located at education sites.
- ◀ Three quarters of clubs report that senior membership levels have increased in the previous three years and are likely to further increase. However, it appears that current levels of demand can be met at present.
- ◀ Coventry Tennis League is the main league servicing senior tennis participation. It reports its playing membership has remained static over the previous three years. Although it does not operate a waiting list it reports it is at capacity.
- ◀ Junior membership levels have declined over the previous three years with half of clubs reporting a decrease in the number of junior members. Clubs in the city recognise the importance of increasing junior membership levels.
- ◀ Coventry is recognised as a key city for tennis by the LTA. Ongoing partnership work will continue with the LTA to retain existing provision and maximise the utilisation of park courts.
- ◀ Latent demand for additional courts has been expressed by Coventry and North Warwickshire Tennis Club. However, this is attributed to a lack access during the close season on the courts that are not floodlit.
- ◀ Work will need to continue with key clubs to explore opportunities to meet latent demand for additional tennis courts through increasing access to education courts (satellite clubs) for community use, particularly in the north of the city.
- ◀ A large number of clubs have facility development plans to enhance the quality of tennis court provision at their respective sites.
- ◀ There is limited community use of tennis courts at education sites, primarily due to a lack of demand for such provision.

²⁰ LTA guidelines state that club facilities should be able to accommodate 40 members per court and 60 members per floodlit court.

COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

6.4 Athletics

Introduction

The sport is governed by England Athletics (EA), which also works at a regional and local level via regional and county associations. Much of the development work is delivered by the local Club and Coach Support Officer. England Athletics and UK Athletics (UKA) are encouraging the development of club networks.

England Athletics, working with the UKA are currently developing a facility strategy which will identify priorities for facility investment from 2013 onwards.

England Athletics has also produced a guide 'What we are going to do and how we will do it 2009-2013' which outlines the NGB's way of working with partners in relation to facilities, it outlines EAs plans to:

- ◀ Work with UKA to maintain and develop the existing stock of specific training and competition facilities for affiliated clubs and communities.
- ◀ Work with UKA to influence local planning frameworks, growth agendas and local authorities to improve local athletics facilities.
- ◀ Work with UKA to improve access to training facilities to support aspiring coaches and athletes.

Supply

There are five athletics tracks in Coventry of which three are available for community use. These are based at education sites including Lyng Hall School and the University of Warwick.

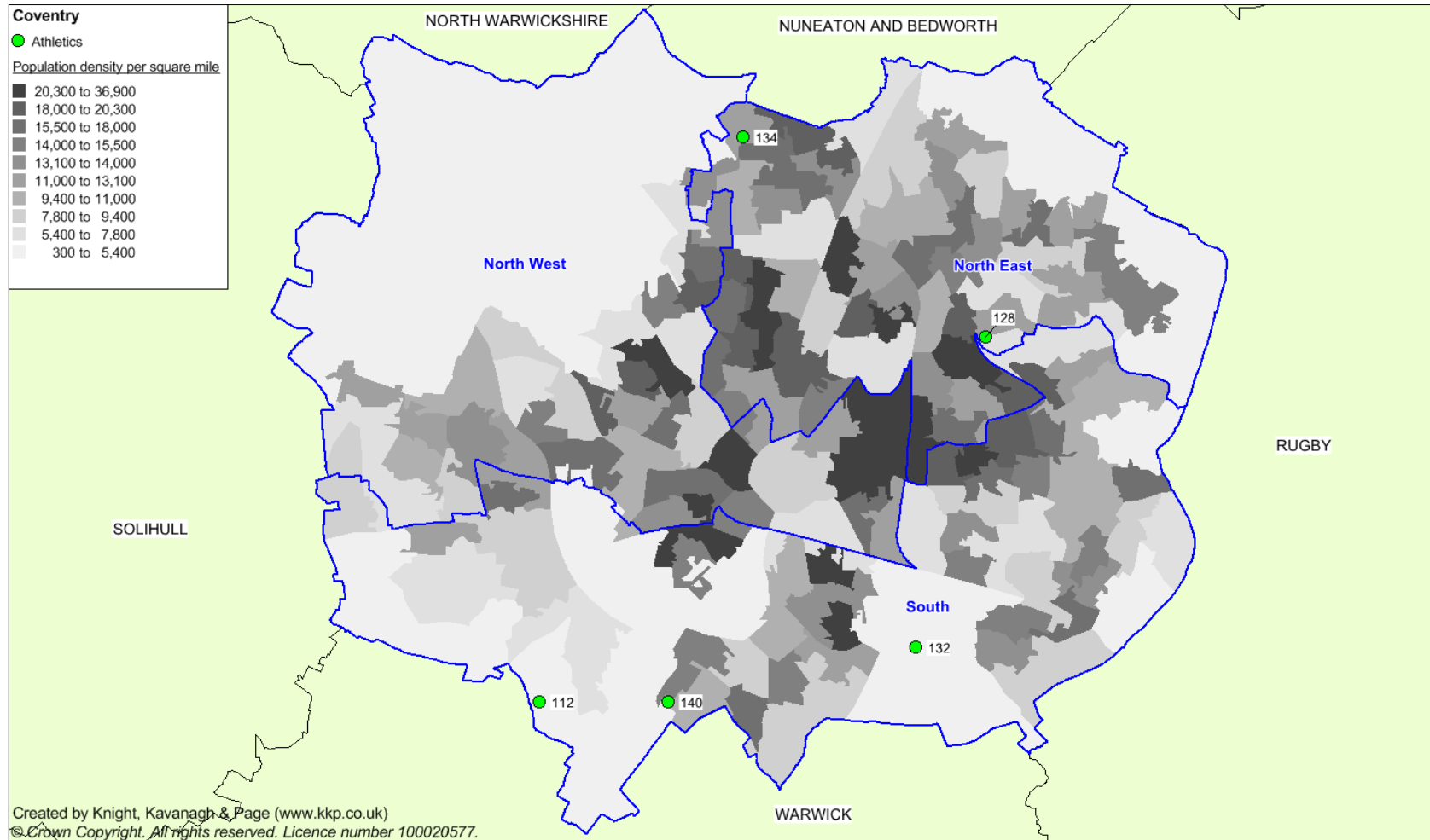
Figure 8.1 overleaf generally indicates that the distribution of athletics tracks is skewed to the south analysis area. There is no provision of community accessible athletics tracks in the north west analysis area.

Quality

Coventry Godiva Harriers is based at the University of Warwick (Westwood Campus), where recent facility developments include redevelopment of its clubhouse. Site assessments confirm that the track quality is excellent. The athletic tracks at Bishop Ullathorne Catholic School, President Kennedy School and Whitley Abbey School are redgra tracks, which are rated as poor quality and receive low quality scores of 20% or less.

COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Figure 6.4: Location of athletics tracks in Coventry



COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 6.7: Summary of athletics tracks by analysis area

KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Community use	Track surface	Quality rating
112	University Of Warwick (Westwood Campus)	South	Yes	Polymeric	Excellent
128	Lyng Hall School	North East	Yes	Polymeric	Excellent
132	Whitley Abbey School	South	No	Redgra	Poor
134	President Kennedy School & College	North East	No	Redgra	Poor
140	Bishop Ullathorne Catholic School	South	Yes	Redgra	Poor

Demand

There are a number of clubs based in the city which include road running and track based clubs. The University of Warwick is one of the most popular facilities across the city and is used by a range of clubs, whilst Lyng Hall School is the home track of Coventry Sphinx AC.

Athletics summary

- ◀ In total, there are five athletic tracks in Coventry of which three are available for community use. All athletic provision is based at education sites across the city.
- ◀ The distribution of athletic tracks is concentrated in the south analysis area. There is no provision of community accessible athletic tracks in the north west analysis area.
- ◀ Site assessments rate the redgra tracks at Bishop Ullathorne, President Kennedy and Whitley Abbey schools as poor quality.

COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

6.5 Netball

Introduction

All England Netball Association (AENA) is the governing body with overall responsibility for ensuring the effective governance of the sport. It is managed regionally by Netball West Midlands.

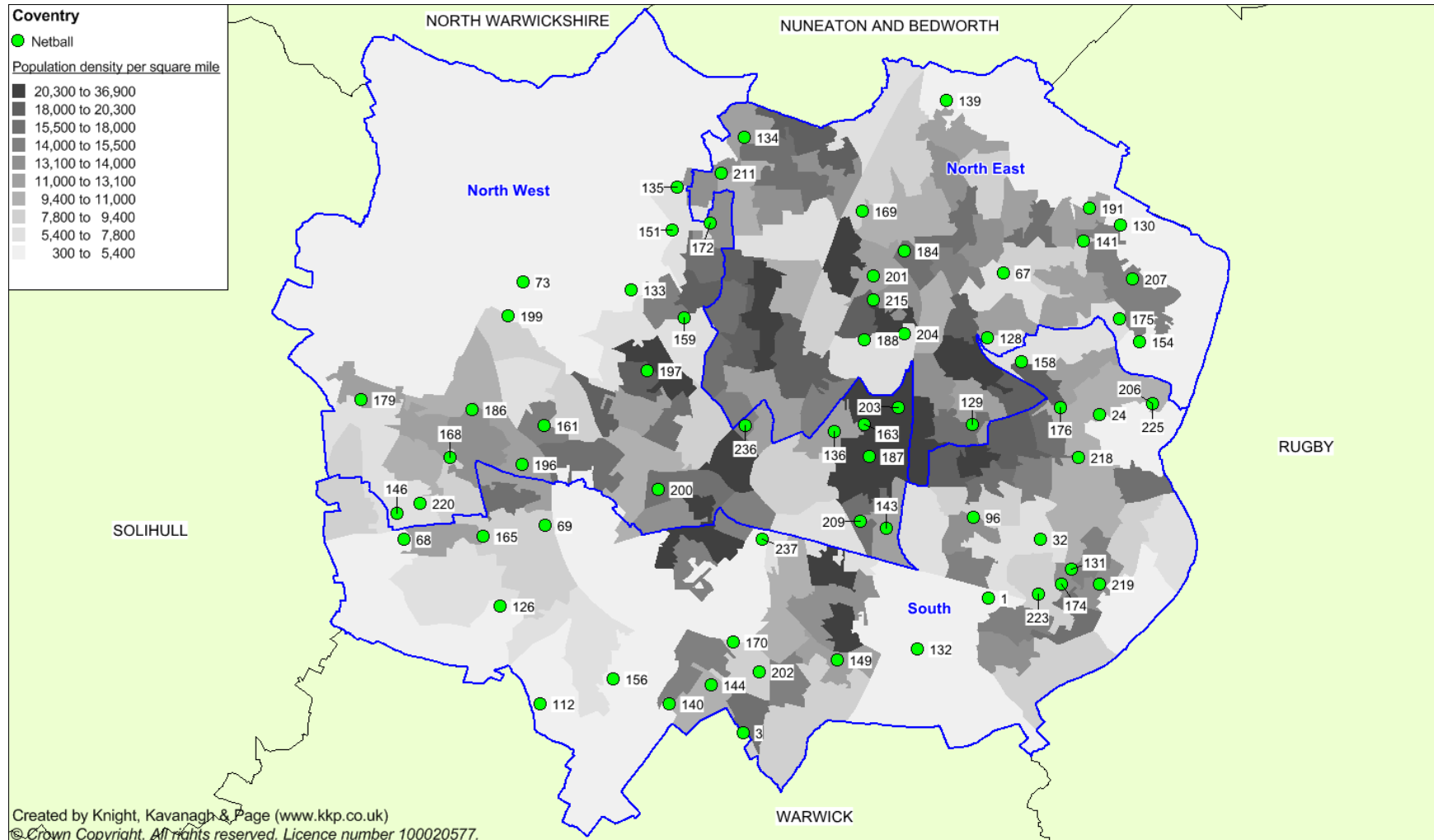
In total, there are nine netball clubs in Coventry playing the sport using indoor and outdoor netball courts.

Supply

There are 172 netball courts in Coventry of which over one third (59 courts) are available for community use. A significant proportion of netball courts (148 courts) are based at school sites. This, however, limits their availability for community use and only 35 of these courts are actually available for community use.

COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Figure 6.5: Location of netball courts in Coventry



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Table 6.8: Summary of netball courts by analysis area

KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Community use	No. of courts	Quality rating
1	Alan Higgs Centre	South	Yes	4	Poor
3	Alvis Sports Club	South	Yes	2	Average
24	Caludon Castle Sports Centre	South	Yes	6	Excellent
32	Copsewood Sports and Social Club	South	Yes	2	Excellent
67	Henley College Coventry	North East	Yes	2	Good
68	Hereward College Sports Centre	South	Yes	3	Excellent
69	Highway Sports & Social Club	South	Yes	2	Good
73	Jaguar Leisure Centre	North West	Yes	2	Good
96	Sphinx Sports & Social Club	South	Yes	2	Good
112	University Of Warwick (Westwood Campus)	South	Yes	4	Good
126	Xcel Leisure Centre	South	Yes	4	Average
128	Lyng Hall School	North West	Yes	3	Excellent
129	Stoke Park School	North East	No	2	Average
130	Grace Academy	North East	No	3	Excellent
131	Ernesford Grange Sports Centre	South	Yes	4	Good
132	Whitley Academy	South	No	3	Average
133	Coundon Court School & Community College	North West	No	8	Good
134	President Kennedy School & College	North East	No	9	Good
135	Cardinal Newman School	North West	No	6	Good
136	Sidney Stringer Academy	North West	No	4	Excellent
139	Foxford School	North East	Yes	2	Good
140	Bishop Ullathorne Catholic School	South	Yes	8	Poor
141	Cardinal Wiseman School	North East	No	5	Average
143	Bluecoat Church Of England School	North West	No	4	Good
144	Finham Park School	South	No	7	Average
146	Tile Hill Wood School And Language College	North West	Yes	7	Good
149	Howes Primary School	South	Yes	1	Excellent
151	Keresley Grange Primary School	North West	Yes	1	Below Average
154	Walsgrave C Of E Primary School	North East	No	1	Excellent
156	Cannon Park Primary	South	No	1	Below Average
158	St. John Fisher	South	No	1	Average
159	Christ the King Catholic Junior	North West	No	2	Excellent
160	Good Shepherd Catholic Primary	North East	No	1	Below Average
161	St John's C of E (VA) Primary School	North West	No	1	Excellent
163	St Mary and St Benedict	North West	No	1	Below Average
165	Templars Primary School	South	No	1	Good
168	Limbrick Wood Primary	North West	No	1	Poor

COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Community use	No. of courts	Quality rating
169	Holbrook Primary School	North East	No	1	Good
170	Stivichall Primary School	South	No	1	Good
172	Whitmore Park Primary School	North West	No	2	Good
174	Sowe Valley Primary School	South	No	3	Good
175	St Peters and St Pauls Primary School	North East	No	1	Good
176	St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School	South	No	1	Good
179	Eastern Green Junior	North West	No	2	Good
184	Little Heath Primary Sch.	North East	No	1	Average
186	Park Hill Primary School	North West	No	1	Average
187	Southfields Primary School	North West	No	1	Average
188	Broad Heath Primary School	North East	No	1	Excellent
191	Potters Green School	North East	No	2	Good
196	St.John Vianney School	North West	No	1	Below Average
197	Coundon Primary	North West	No	2	Good
199	Allesley Primary School	North West	No	1	Good
200	All Souls Catholic Primary School	North West	No	2	Good
201	Edgewick Community Primary School	North East	No	1	Good
202	Grange Farm Primary School	South	No	1	Poor
203	Frederick Bird Primary School	North West	No	1	Good
204	Stanton Bridge Primary School	North East	No	1	Good
206	Pearl Hyde Primary School	South	No	1	Excellent
207	Sir Frank Whittle Primary School	North East	No	2	Good
209	All Saints Church of England Primary School	North West	No	1	Average
211	Holy Family Catholic Primary	North East	No	1	Good
215	St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School	North East	No	1	Average
218	St Gregory's Catholic Primary School	South	No	2	Good
219	St Bartholomew's Church of England	South	No	1	Below Average
220	Our Lady of the Assumption RC Primary School	North West	No	1	Below Average
223	Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School	South	No	1	Good
225	Pearl Hyde Community Primary School	South	No	2	Good
236	Bablake School	North West	No	3	Good
237	King Henry VIII School	South	No	3	Good

Figure 6.5 indicates a good distribution of netball courts across the city. However, only a third of the provision is actually available for community use. In particular, the North East Analysis Area is poorly serviced by courts that are available for community use. Whilst the South Analysis Area has a more significant proportion available for community use.

COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Quality

Generally the quality of courts in Coventry is assessed via non technical assessments as good, with almost half (49%) scoring as this.

The quality of courts at Ernesford Grange School and the Alan Higgs Centre are reported to have declined over the last three years. Clubs report that the facilities which they are currently using as their home grounds have not experienced a change in the quality in the last few years.

Demand

There is not a clear pattern of demand across the City and membership varies on a club by club basis. In general terms the larger clubs, which have experienced an increase in the number of teams, still plan to increase teams further. This has been a result of effective school-club links. For example, Ernesford Grange Netball Club has increased the number of junior teams through links with Caludon Castle School.

Netball summary

- ◀ There are 166 netball courts in the city which are mainly located at education sites. However, only a small number (35) of education courts are available for community use.
- ◀ Netball in Coventry is played using indoor and outdoor courts.
- ◀ Membership trends vary on a club by club basis. However, in general terms the larger clubs report that that membership levels have increased. Clubs also report that they have plans to further increase the number of teams. It is likely that this will be accommodated on existing provision and will not result in the need for additional netball provision in Coventry.
- ◀ The quality of netball courts in the city has remained static over the previous five years. However, consultation suggests the quality of the courts has declined over the previous three years.
- ◀ It will be important for the development of netball to retain and improve the quality of sites with four outdoor courts or more and to secure opportunities to increase the quality of key sites for the sport.

COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

6.6 Other sports

Gaelic football

Gaelic football is governed nationally by the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA). In Coventry the sport is governed by Warwickshire GAA. Gaelic football is a growing sport in Coventry and is popular amongst its Irish community. There are three Gaelic clubs in Coventry; St Finnbar's, Four Masters GAA, and Roger Casements Gaelic Football Club.

The clubs play on pitches at St. Finbarr's Sports Ground, Sphinx Sports and Social Club and Cardinal Newman School. The clubs have developed school-club links with a number of schools within the catchment that has helped to increase the profile of the sport. This has particularly had a positive impact on junior participation at Roger Casements Gaelic Football Club, which is now the largest Gaelic Football Club in Coventry, fielding eight teams (including five junior and one women's team).

Kabaddi

The sport is organised locally by the Coventry Asian Sports Federation which promotes opportunities for people of all ages across the community to participate in traditional Asian sports such as Kabaddi.

An annual event known as the 'Coventry Kabaddi Cup' is hosted in the city. In 2013, it was hosted at Morris Park, which attracted thousands of spectators.

Lacrosse

The University of Warwick is the only lacrosse club in Coventry (established in 2009/10). Membership levels have increased each year and it fields circa nine teams which compete in both the BUCS League and intermural leagues. It is regarded as the largest sports club at the University. It trains and plays its competitive fixtures at the University of Warwick (Westwood Campus).

Softball

Through consultation with Baseball Softball UK, Coventry's only softball team; Coventry Tigers, has recently stopped operating as a club and fields no teams. However, the Club hopes to field teams again in the future.

Baseball Softball UK has delivered programmes in schools across Coventry including Woodlands, Blue Coats, Ash Green, Cardinal Newman and Tile Hill Wood as well as at the University of Warwick. More than 2,000 children and young adults from across the city have now taken up the sport, which is a cross between rounders and baseball.

American football

The Coventry Jets are the only American football team in Coventry and compete in the British American Football Association Community League. The Jets' home ground is located at Coventry Sphinx Sports and Social Club. The Club offers all levels of American Football; senior, university, junior, youth and flag football.

COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Extreme sports

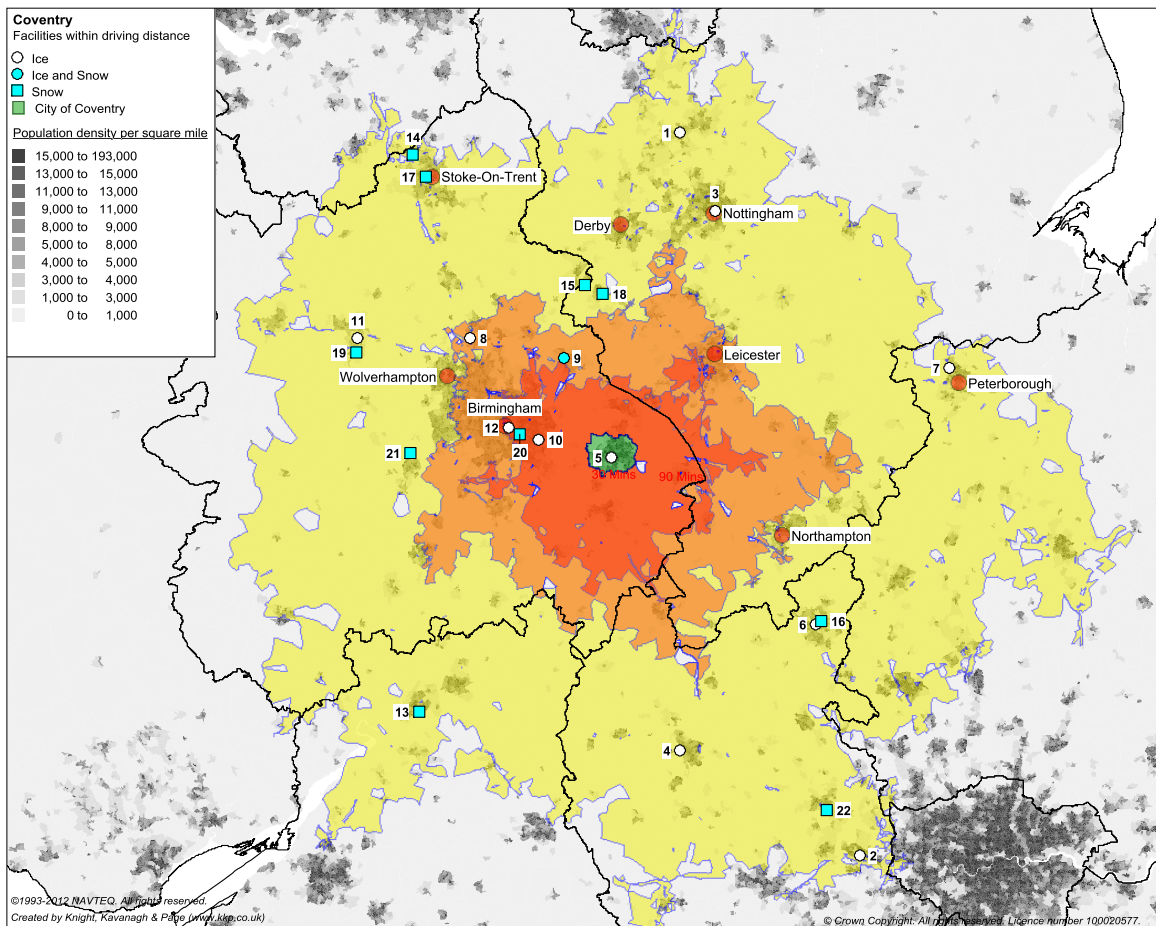
Analysis of the use of major sporting and leisure attractions identifies that a 45 minute drive time is a reasonable time and distance for people to travel to access such a facility. Therefore, analysis of what is available within a 90 minute drive time not only identifies what is available within the said 45 minute catchment, but also what competition exists for users to access. As an example, a facility in Coventry may include residents of Northampton within its catchment (i.e. 45 minutes). However, the Northampton market may look towards a competing facility in Birmingham or Wolverhampton rather than visit one in Northampton.

The population within a 30 minute drive time of Coventry is just over 1.7 million people. This rises to over four million within 45 minutes. A key feature in this is the inclusion of key conurbations along the M1 motorway such as Leicester, Coventry, Milton Keynes and Luton.

Ice and snow facilities

As highlighted on the map below the closest ice and snow facilities to Coventry are located in Birmingham, (approximately a 30 minute drive time) which boasts Solihull Ice Rink, The Leisurebox and The Ackers.

Figure 6.6: Ice and snow facilities in a 30, 45 and 90 minute drive time catchment



COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Key to Figure 6.6:

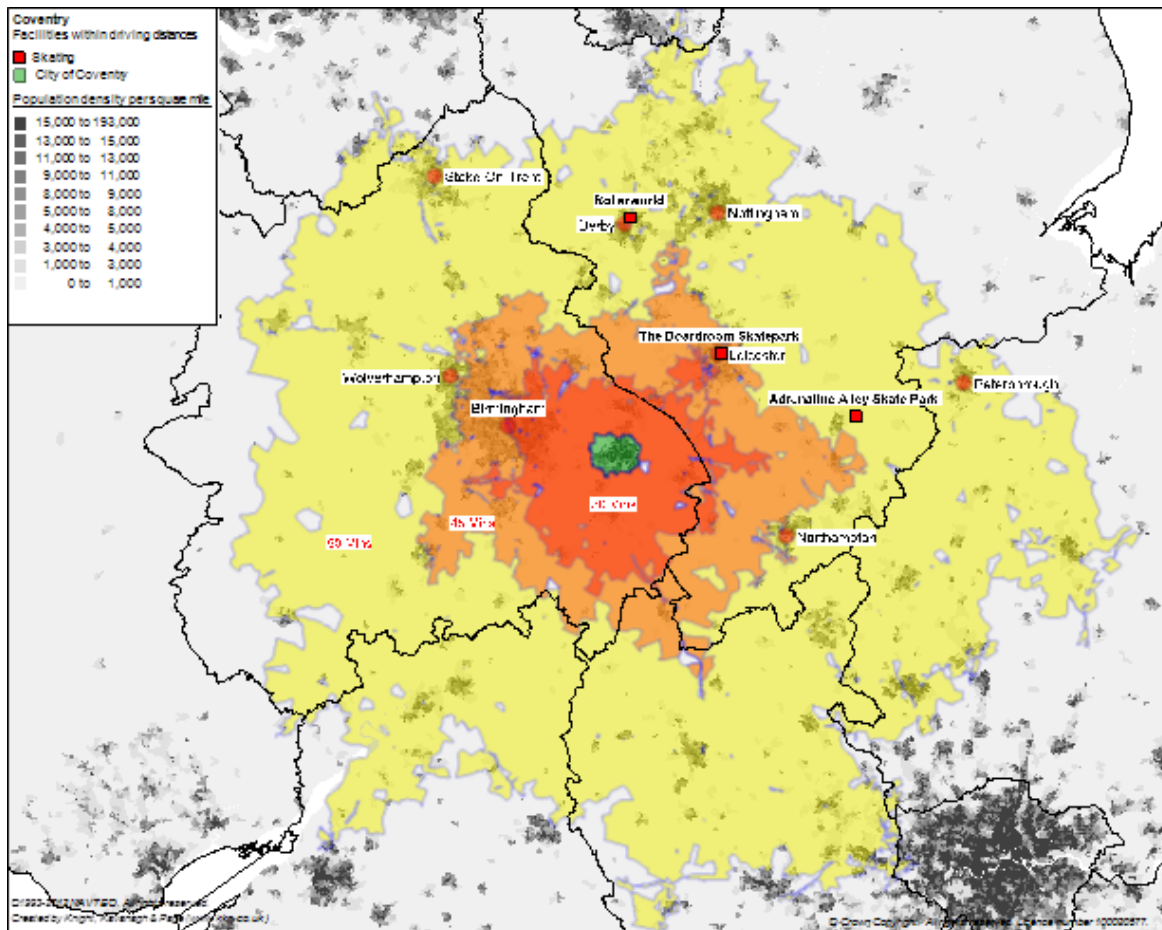
Map ID	Site	Facility type	Ownership type	Local authority
1	Lammas Leisure Centre	Ice	Local Authority	Ashfield District
2	Montem Leisure Centre	Ice	Local Authority	Slough
3	National Ice Centre	Ice	Local Authority	City Of Nottingham
4	Oxford Ice Rink	Ice	Local Authority	Oxford District
5	Planet Ice (Coventry)	Ice	Commercial	Coventry District
6	Planet Ice (Milton Keynes)	Ice	Commercial	Milton Keynes
7	Planet Ice (Peterborough)	Ice	Commercial	City Of Peterborough
8	Silver Blades Ice Rink (Cannock)	Ice	Commercial	Cannock Chase District
9	Snowdome	Ice & Ski	Commercial	Tamworth District
10	Solihull Ice Rink	Ice	Commercial	Solihull District
11	Telford Ice Rink	Ice	Local Authority	Telford And Wrekin
12	The Leisurebox	Ice	Commercial	Birmingham District
13	Gloucester Ski And Snowboard Centre	Ski	Commercial	Gloucester District
14	Kidsgrove Ski Centre	Ski	Commercial	Newcastle-Under-Lyme District
15	Paulet High School	Ski	Community School	East Staffordshire District
16	Sno!Zone Milton Keynes	Ski	Commercial	Milton Keynes
17	Stoke Ski Centre	Ski	Commercial	City Of Stoke-On-Trent
18	Swadlincote Ski & Snowboard Centre	Ski	Commercial	South Derbyshire District
19	Telford Snowboard And Ski Centre	Ski	Local Authority	Telford And Wrekin
20	The Ackers	Ski	Other	Birmingham District
21	Wolverley Ce Secondary School	Ski	Community School	Wyre Forest District
22	Wycombe Summit Ski And Snowboard Centre	Ski	Commercial	Wycombe District

Planet Ice (formerly known as The Skydome) is the only ice rink in Coventry (in the city centre – within the north west analysis area).

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Wheeled sports (rollerblading, BMX and skateboarding)

Figure 6.7: Indoor wheeled facilities within a 30, 45 and 90 minute drive time catchment



The Board Room Skate Park in Leicester is located within 30 minutes of Coventry and Adrenaline Alley in Corby is located within the 45 minute drive time catchment of Coventry. There are currently no indoor skatepark facilities in the city. Existing skateparks in Coventry are all open air which have limited availability and are perceived by users to be poorly maintained.

Many local authorities will have outdoor skateparks located in public parks which do not appear on the catchment analysis. However, it is clear that the indoor wheeled sports facilities market is a growing one; however many of the recent developments have been located in industrial sites and have been conversions of older buildings (e.g. factories and mills).

A key consideration when developing an indoor skatepark is the extent to which it will be used to attract young people in the evenings and weekends, especially late at night. Therefore, recent developments have specifically steered away from residential areas where noise may be a factor.

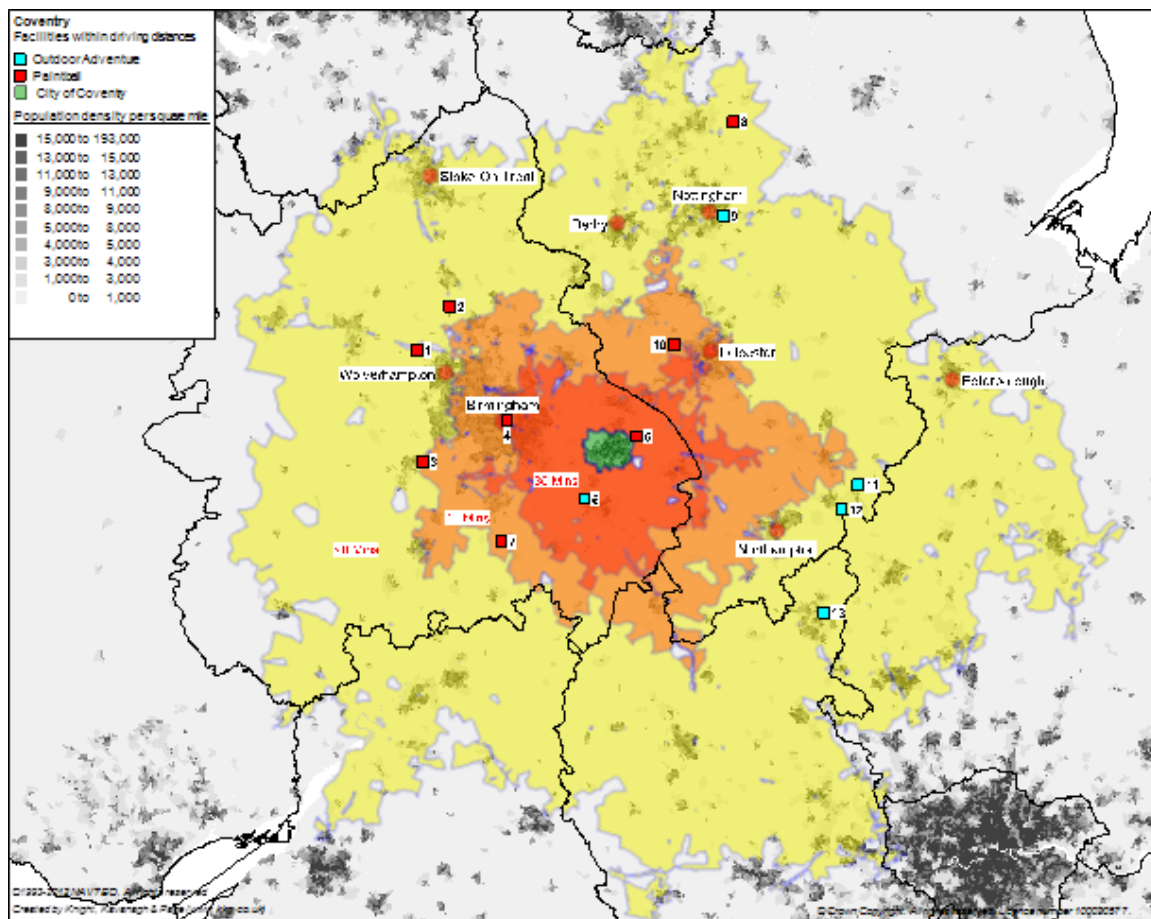
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Coventry City Council's Sport and Arts service were supported by the Youth Service to undertake consultation with riders as part of 2012's 'Summer Jam' event in Millennium Place over the period of the London Olympic Games. The event attracted over 280 individual users and feedback was collected on interest in a more permanent facility. The feedback revealed that skateboarding (33% of respondents) is the most popular activity and an indoor facility is preferred (65% of respondents) to an outdoor facility.

Outdoor activities

There are two paintball facilities and one outdoor adventure facility within a 30 minute drive time catchment of Coventry. These include Go Ballistic Paintballing to the north east of Coventry and in Birmingham at Adventure Sports to the south west of Coventry. Coventry Bees Speedway Stadium is located just outside Coventry, to the west of the city.

Figure 6.8: Outdoor activities facilities within a 30, 45 and 90 minute drive time catchment



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Multi use games areas (MUGAS)

Current provision

In total there are 43 MUGAs across the city. The quality score of these facilities varies from poor for Radford Primary School to good for Jardine Crescent.

There is generally an even distribution of MUGAs across the city, with the majority of provision located in areas of highest population density.

Table 6.10: Key to location of MUGAs

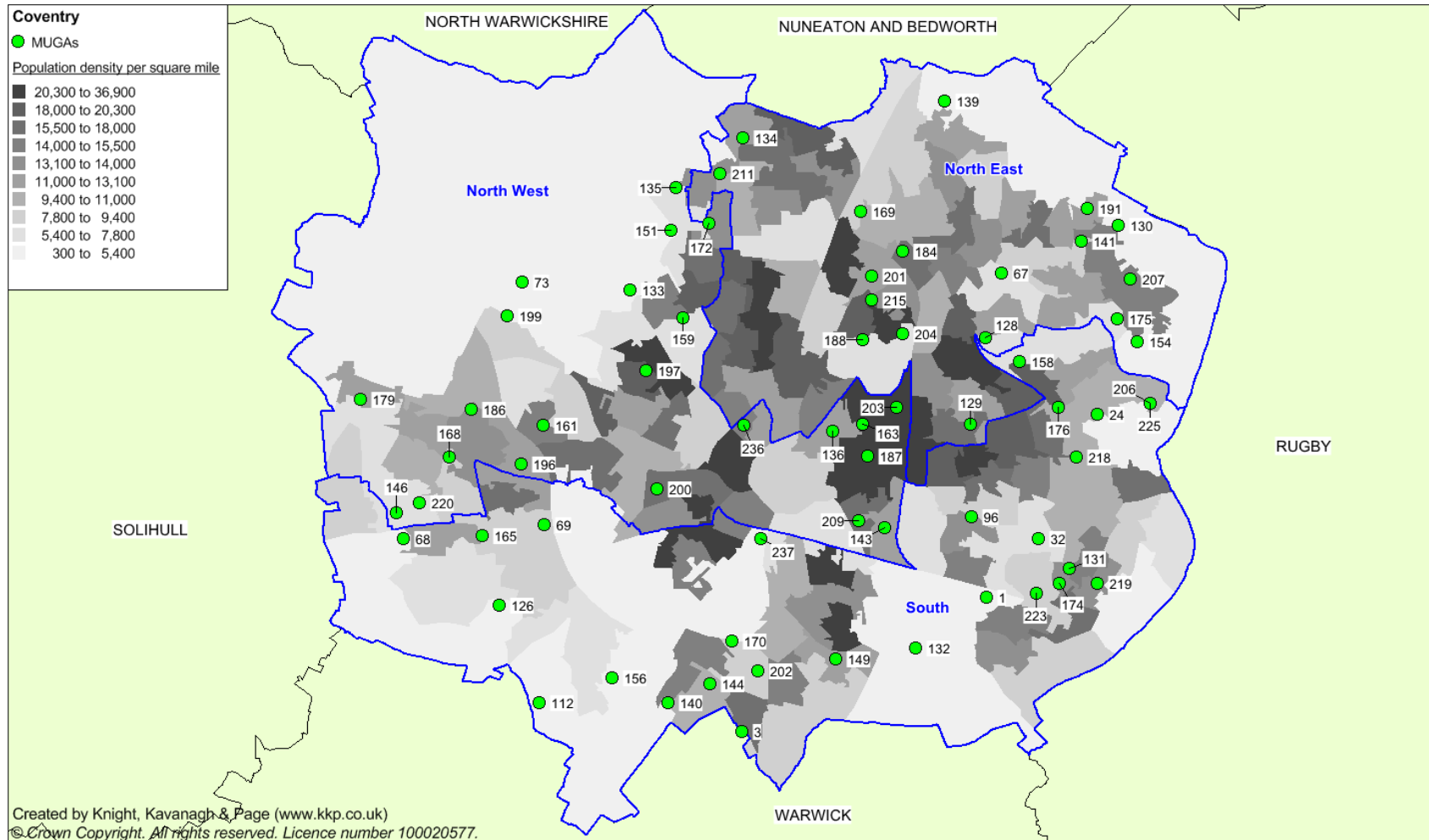
KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Community use	MUGAs	Quality
1	Alan Higgs Centre, Allard Way	South	Yes	1	Good
10	Bagington Fields	South	No	1	Good
26	Caludon Castle Park	South	Yes	1	Good
27	Canley Sports And Social Club	South	Yes	2	Average
50	Eagle Street, Coventry	North East	Yes	1	Average
63	Gosford Park	South	Yes	1	Average
67	Henley College Coventry	North East	Yes	1	Good
74	Jardine Crescent	North West	Yes	1	Good
79	Longford Park	North East	Yes	2	Good
82	Moathouse Leisure & Neighbourhood Centre	North East	Yes	3	Good
136	Sidney Stringer Academy	North West	No	1	Good
141	Cardinal Wiseman School	North East	No	1	Poor
146	Tile Hill Wood School And Language College	North West	Yes	1	Poor
148	Hollyfast Primary School	North West	No	3	Poor
156	Cannon Park Primary	South	No	1	Poor
158	St. John Fisher	South	No	1	Good
159	Christ the King Catholic Junior	North West	No	1	Good
160	Good Shepherd Catholic Primary	North East	No	1	Poor
163	St Mary and St Benedict	North West	No	1	Poor
165	Templars Primary School	South	No	1	Good
166	Radford Primary School	North East	No	1	Poor
167	Henley Green Primary School	North East	No	1	Good
169	Holbrok Primary School	North East	No	1	Good
174	Sowe Valley Primary School	South	No	1	Good
175	St Peters and St Pauls Primary School	North East	No	1	Good
181	Hearsall Primary School	North West	No	2	Poor

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KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Community use	MUGAs	Quality
187	Southfields Primary School	North West	No	1	Good
191	Potters Green School	North East	No	2	Good
193	Baginton Fields School	South	No	1	Poor
194	Willenhall Community Primary	South	No	1	Poor
195	Aldermoor Farm Primary	South	No	1	Poor
212	Leigh Church of England Primary School	South	No	1	Good
214	Allesley Hall Primary	North West	No	2	Poor
215	St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School	North East	No	1	Average

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Figure 6.6: Location of MUGAs in Coventry



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Key issues

Facilities such as tarmac five-a-side courts (that may double up for tennis and/or netball) and MUGAs have an important role in providing for the casual needs of various sports. For example, well-designed and located MUGAs provide not only opportunities for physical activity (to be encouraged in its own right) but can also reduce pressure on existing grass pitches from casual use and training.

MUGA summary

- ◀ There are 43 MUGA located across the city. The majority of MUGA provision is located in areas of highest population density.
- ◀ Consultation suggests that the current supply is meeting demand.

COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

APPENDIX ONE: CONSULTEE LIST

First Name	Surname	Designation	Organisation
Paul	Smith	Relationship Manager	England Hockey
Hannah	Buckley	Regional Facilities and Investment Manager	Football Association
Ed	McCabe	Cricket Development Manager	Warwickshire Cricket Board
John	Huband	Regional Funding and Facilities Manager (Midlands)	English Cricket Board
Jayne	Ashton	Tennis Development Manager	Lawn Tennis Association
Peter	Shaw	Area Facilities Manager	Rugby Football Union
Bob	Sharples	Planning Manager	Sport England
Ces	Edwards	Head of Service Parks & Open Spaces	Coventry City Council
Roland	Harrison	Sports Development Manager	Coventry City Council
Jonathan	Hunt	Development Manager - Voluntary Sector	Coventry City Council
Ken	Adamson	City Education Sports	Coventry City Council
Azeem	Mohammed	Primary Schools Programme	Coventry City Council
Ann	Akerman	Parks Bookings	Coventry City Council
David	Nuttall	Service Manager - Sports Arts & Heritage	Coventry City Council
Steve	Wiles	Development Manager – Facilities and Contracts	Coventry City Council
Guy	Rippon	Joint Head of Community	Coventry City Football Club
Nigel	Smith	Planning Officer	Coventry City Council
Paul	Jones	Club Secretary	3D Scantech F.C.
Satvinder	Padda	Club Secretary	A F C Coventry Lions
Christopher	Dunne	Club Secretary	Alvis Junior F.C.
Christopher	Dunne	Club Secretary	Alvis Junior Saturday F.C.
Steven	Ridley	Club Secretary	Ansty F.C.
Steven	Ridley	Club Secretary	Ansty Rangers F.C.
Beatrice	Upham	Club Secretary	A R Y P T1 St Thomas More F.C.
Mark	Sephton	Club Secretary	Athletico Mosaic F.C.
Leslie	Seabourn	Club Secretary	Athletic United J F.C.
Leslie	Seabourn	Club Secretary	Athletic United J Saturday F.C.
Colin	Smith	Club Secretary	Balsall/Berkswell F.C.
Laura	Cranshaw	Club Secretary	Bayern Neverlusen F.C.
Laura	Cranshaw	Club Secretary	Blue Army F.C.
Steve	Tierney	Club Secretary	Brooklands/Jaguar F.C.
Alexander	Shields	Club Secretary	Chadbourne Scaffolding F.C.
Erica	Challis	Club Secretary	Chapelfields Colts F.C.
Erica	Challis	Club Secretary	Chapelfields Colts Saturday F.C.

COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

First Name	Surname	Designation	Organisation
			Chetwynd AFC
Gavin	Farrell	Club Secretary	Christ The King F.C.
Bradley	Thompson	Club Secretary	Christ The King Jnrs F.C.
Bradley	Thompson	Club Secretary	Christ the King Jnrs Saturday F.C.
Bradley	Thompson	Club Secretary	Christ The King Rovers F.C.
Bradley	Thompson	Club Secretary	Christ the King Rovers Saturday F.C.
Billy	Morrison	Club Secretary	Clifford Park Rangers F.C.
Sean	Quirke	Club Secretary	Copsewood (Coventry) F.C.
Nicola	Foskett	Club Secretary	Copsewood (Coventry) Ladies F.C.
David	Wilson	Club Chairman.	Copsewood Sports and Social
Stevan	Richings	Club Secretary	Coundon Athletic F.C.
Kevin	Jones	Club Secretary	Coundon Cockerels Juniors F.C.
Kevin	Jones	Club Secretary	Coundon Cockerels Juniors Saturday F.C.
Ryan	Armstrong	Club Secretary	Coundon Cosmos F.C.
Barry	Morris	Club Secretary	Coundon Court F.C.
Barry	Morris	Club Secretary	Coundon Court Girls F.C.
Jane	Connolly	Club Secretary	Coventrians Juniors F.C.
Jane	Connolly	Club Secretary	Coventrians Minor F.C.
Laura	Cranshaw	Club Secretary	Coventry Allstars F.C.
Michelle	Lucas	Club Secretary	Coventry Amateurs F.C.
Chris	Balding	Club Secretary	Coventry Athletic F.C.
Laura	Cranshaw	Club Secretary	Coventry Caledonian Thistle F.C.
Ryan	Thompson	Club Secretary	Coventry Chemicals F.C.
Roy	Watts	Club Secretary	Coventry Colliery F.C.
David	Wilson	Club Secretary	Coventry Copsewood F.C.
Craig	Watson	Club Secretary	Coventry Copsewood Junior F.C.
Craig	Watson	Club Secretary	Coventry Copsewood Jfc
Mark	Robinson	Club Secretary	Coventry Jaguar Youth F.C.
Mark	Robinson	Club Secretary	Coventry Jaguar Youth Saturday F.C.
Chris	Bowden	Club Secretary	Coventry Rangers F.C.
Lee	Thomas	Club Secretary	Coventry Saracens Junior F.C.
Jackie	McGowan	Club Secretary	Coventry Sphinx F.C.
Tony	Purnell	Club Secretary	Coventry Sphinx Juniors F.C.

COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

First Name	Surname	Designation	Organisation
Elizabeth	O'Brien	Club Secretary	Coventry Sphinx Juniors Saturday F.C.
Glenn	Moran	Club Secretary	Coventry Sphinx Ladies F.C.
Samantha	Gill	Club Secretary	Coventry University F.C.
Samantha	Gill	Club Secretary	Coventry University Womens F.C.
Laura	Cranshaw	Club Secretary	Coventry Valiant F.C.
Neil	Harris	Club Secretary	Dunlop Juniors Minor Saturday F.C.
Mark	Friday	Club Secretary	Ernesford Dynamos F.C.
Mark	Friday	Club Secretary	Ernesford Dynamos Saturday F.C.
Paul	Cashmore		Fillongley F.C
Sam	Weller	Club Secretary	Fillongley Social F.C.
Steve	Nutt	Club Secretary	Finham Park Alvis F.C.
Helen	McCormack	Club Secretary	Fire Fighters F.C.
Mick	Raggett	Club Secretary	Folly Lane B C O B Assoc F.C.
Mark	Dhillon	Club Secretary	G N P Sports Jnrs F.C.
Mark	Dhillon	Club Secretary	G N P Sports Jnrs Saturday F.C.
Mark	Dhillon	Club Secretary	G N P Sports Saturday F.C.
Anne	Turner	Club Secretary	Haunchwood Sports Juniors F.C.
Elaine	Procter	Club Secretary	Hawkesmill 87 Saturday F.C.
William	Holtom	Club Secretary	Hawkes Mill Sports F.C.
David	Larkin	Club Secretary	Highway Coundon Court F.C.
B	Millward	Club Secretary	Jaguar Daimler F.C.
Stephen	Crowther	Club Secretary	Lowfors F.C.
Laura	Cranshaw	Club Secretary	Mean Machine F.C.
Stephen	Davenport	Club Secretary	Meredith Road Baptist Church F.C.
Adam	Fellows	Club Secretary	Minstrel Boy F.C.
John	O'Neill	Club Secretary	Mount Nod Junior F.C.
John	O'Neill	Club Secretary	Mount Nod Junior Saturday F.C.
Daniel	Burke	Club Secretary	Myton Jaguar F.C.
John	Wilson	Club Secretary	New Horizons F.C.
Adam	Case	Club Secretary	Old Ball F.C.
Paul	Jones	Club Secretary	Old Crown Coventry F.C.
Gareth	Bickley	Club Secretary	Phantom United F.C.
Dawn	Morris	Club Secretary	Pinley Saturday F.C.
Nicola	Fletcher	Club Secretary	Pro Santos F.C.
Craig	Pearson	Club Secretary	P S A Peugeot Citroen F.C.

COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

First Name	Surname	Designation	Organisation
Ray	Zutic	Club Secretary	Radford Social F.C.
Ray	zutic	Club Secretary	Radford coachmakers 1st/2nds
Roger	Ash	Club Secretary	Royal Oak Coventry F.C.
B	Sawbridge	Club Secretary	R S Sports F.C.
Chris	Wright	Club Secretary	Shepherd F.C.
Laura	Cranshaw	Club Secretary	Singer F.C.
Craig	White	Club Secretary	Sky Blues in the Community Minor F.C.
Amanda	Wignall	Jnr Secretary	Southam United FC
Shaun	Bivens	Club Secretary	Sphinx Sports & Social F.C.
			Sporting Newman Junior Football Club
Heath	Watts	Club Secretary	St Finbarrs F.C.
Heath	Watts	Club Secretary	St Finbarrs Saturday F.C.
David	Leach	Club Secretary	St Johns Westwood F.C.
Joseph	Ball	Club Secretary	Stoneleigh F.C.
Joseph	Ball	Club Secretary	Stoneleigh Saturday F.C.
			Stratford Town Colts FC
Laura	Cranshaw	Club Secretary	Swerve F.C.
Beatrice	Upham	Club Chairman	The Andrew Robinson Young Peoples Trust (ARYPT) St. Thomas More F.C
Sonna	Lievesley	Club Secretary	Triumph Athletic F.C.
Deena	Comasky	Club Secretary	Triumph Athletic Juniors F.C.
Laura	Cranshaw	Club Secretary	Uni 6ths F.C.
Thomas	Channing	Club Secretary	University of Warwick F.C.
Beth	Griffiths	Club Secretary	University of Warwick Womens F.C.
Steven	Kerr	Club Secretary	Wallace F.C.
Jen	emeny green	Club Secretary	Warwick University Intra Mural Sunday F.C.
Jen	emeny green	Club Secretary	Warwick University Intra Mural Wednesday F.C.
Amy	Sproson	Club Secretary	West Mids/Birmingham FA Regional Cerebral F.C.
Antony	Woan	Club Secretary	Whitley J F.C.
Antony	Woan	Club Secretary	Whitley Juniors Minor F.C.
Stuart	Sephton	Club Secretary	Woodlands W M C F.C.
Derrick	May	League Secretary	Coventry Minor Football League
Guy	Rippon	Coventry City FC - Football in the Community	

COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

First Name	Surname	Designation	Organisation
Bob	Roberts	Club Secretary	Barkers Butts RFC
Mark	Dunn	Club Secretary	Copsewood RFC
Steve	Springgate	Club Secretary	Coventrians RFC
Mark	Paul	Club Secretary	Coventry Saracens RFC
Ricky	Rees	Club Secretary	Coventry Tech RFC
Kim	Challis	Club Secretary	Dunlop RFC
Jim	Lorimer	Club Secretary	Earlsdon RFC
Andy	Hibberd	Club Secretary	Old Wheatleyans RFC
Alistair	Nutting	Club Secretary	Pinley RFC
Norman	Venson	Club Secretary	Standard RFC
Peter	Newman	Club Secretary	Stoke Old Boys RFC
Steve	Rawson	Club Secretary	Trinity Guild RFC
Tom	Spencer	Fixture Secretary	University of Warwick Hockey Club
Peter	Cook	Club President	Coventry University Hockey Club
John	Colson	Secretary	Sikh Union Coventry Hockey Club
			Coventry Tennis League
Matt	Abbott	League Secretary	Last Man Stands Cricket League
Graham	Seal	League Secretary	Warwickshire Cricket League
Paul	Whitehall	League Secretary	Coventry Alliance League
		Club Secretary	Hilmorton FC
Sean	Reaper	Club Secretary	Snitterfield FC
Dean	Rafferty		Coventry Warriors
Alexander	Shields	Secretary	Craftsman FC
Selwyn	Calvin	Headteacher	Barr's Hill School and Community College
Christine	Dennington	Headteacher	Ernesford Grange Community School
Ruth	Williamson	Headteacher	Foxford School and Community Arts College
Paul Julie	Green Sellers	Headteacher Business Manager	Lyng Hall Specialist Sports College and Community School
Peter	Thomas	Headteacher	President Kennedy School A Humanities College
Matthew	Pike	Headteacher	Stoke Park School and Community Technology College
Marina	Kelly	Headteacher	Cardinal Newman Catholic School – a Specialist Arts and Community College
Helen	Knight	Headteacher/Sec/Administrator	Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School and Language College

COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

First Name	Surname	Designation	Organisation
Michele	Marr	Headteacher/PA	Caludon Castle Business and Enterprise School
Debbie	Morrison	Headteacher/Sec	Coundon Court
Mark	Bailie	Headteacher/PA	Finham Park School A Mathematics and Computing College
Nicholas	Marshall	Headteacher/PA	Grace Academy Coventry
Wendy	Tomes	Headteacher/PA	Sidney Stringer Academy
Gina	O'Connor	Headteacher/PA	Tile Hill Wood School & Language College
Lorraine	Allen	Headteacher/PA	Whitley Academy
Neil	Charlton	Headteacher/Sec	Woodlands Academy
Alan	Parry	Secretary	Coventry & District Bowls Association (Flat Green Bowls)
R	Shaw	Secretary	Coventry & District Bowling League (Crown Green)
Ann	Doherty	Secretary	Warwickshire Womens Bowls Association
Norma	Willey	Secretary	Coventry & District Ladies Flat Green Bowls League
Steve	Willey	Secretary	Coventry 6 Bowls League

APPENDIX TWO: CONTEXT

Consideration of the national context is paramount. The following section outlines a series of national, regional and local policies pertaining to the study and which have an important influence on the Strategy.

2.1: National context

Sport England: A Sporting Habit for Life (2012-2017)

In 2017, five years after the London Olympic and Paralympic Games, Sport England aspires to transforming sport in England so that it is a habit for life for more people and a regular choice for the majority. The strategy will:

- ◀ See more people starting and keeping a sporting habit for life
- ◀ Create more opportunities for young people
- ◀ Nurture and develop talent
- ◀ Provide the right facilities in the right places
- ◀ Support local authorities and unlock local funding
- ◀ Ensure real opportunities for communities

Sport England Strategy (2011/12 – 2014/15)

The vision is for England to be a world leading sporting nation where many more people choose to play sport. There are five strategic themes including:

- ◀ Maximise value from current NGB investment
- ◀ Places, People, Play
- ◀ Strategic direction and market intelligence
- ◀ Set criteria and support system for NGB 2013-17 investment
- ◀ Market development

Sport England Youth and Community Strategy 2012 – 2017

Launched in January 2012 the strategy sets out how Sport England will invest over one billion pounds of National Lottery and Exchequer funding during the five year plan period. The investment will be used to create a lasting community sport legacy by growing sports participation at the grassroots level following the 2012 London Olympics.

The aim by 2017 is to ensure that playing sport is a lifelong habit for more people and a regular choice for the majority. A specific target is to increase the number of 14 to 25 year olds playing sport. To accomplish these aims the strategy sets out a number of outcomes:

- ◀ 4,000 secondary schools in England will be offered a community sport club on its site with a direct link to one or more NGBs, depending on the local clubs in a school's area.
- ◀ County sports partnerships will be given new resources to create effective links locally between schools and sport in the community.
- ◀ All secondary schools that wish to do so, will be supported to open up, or keep open, their sports facilities for local community use and at least a third of these will receive additional funding to make this happen.
- ◀ At least 150 further educational colleagues will benefit from a full time sports professional who will act as a College Sport Maker.

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- ◀ Three quarters of university students aged 18-24 will get the chance to take up a new sport or continue playing a sport they played at school or college.
- ◀ A thousand of our most disadvantaged local communities will get a Door Step Club.
- ◀ Two thousand young people on the margins of society will be supported by the Dame Kelly Holmes Legacy Trust into sport and to gain new life skills.
- ◀ Building on the success of the Places People Play, a further £100 million will be invested in facilities for the most popular sports.
- ◀ A minimum of 30 sports will have enhanced England Talent Pathways to ensure young people and others fulfil their potential.

National Planning Policy Framework

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out planning policies for England. It details how these changes are expected to be applied to the planning system. It also provides a framework for local people and their councils to produce distinct local and neighbourhood plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of local communities.

The NPPF states the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. It identifies that the planning system needs to focus on three themes of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. A presumption in favour of sustainable development is a key aspect for any plan-making and decision-taking processes. In relation to plan-making the NPPF sets out that Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs.

The 'promoting healthy communities' theme identifies that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative and qualitative deficiencies and surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

As a prerequisite the NPPF states existing open space, sports and recreation sites, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- ◀ An assessment has been undertaken, which has clearly shown that the site is surplus to requirements.
- ◀ The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location.
- ◀ The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

In order for planning policies to be 'sound' local authorities are required to carry out a robust assessment of need for open space, sport and recreation facilities. The methodology to undertake such assessments should be informed by best practice including Sport England's Guidance 'Developing a Playing Pitch Strategy' and 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG17'. Despite PPG17 being replaced by the NPPF, the Companion Guide still offers relevant guidance about undertaking a needs assessment.

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A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England

It is Sport England's policy to object to any planning application, which will result in the loss of a playing field, unless it meets one of five exceptions as defined in 'A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England'. Protection of playing fields was enhanced in 1998 with Circular 9/98 (replaced in 2009 by Circular 02/09), which stipulates that where a local authority is minded to grant planning permission against Sport England's advice on land owned by a local authority or used for educational purposes, then the application should be referred to the relevant Government Office for possible 'call in'.

The FA National Game Strategy (2011 – 2015)

The Football Association's (FA) National Game Strategy provides a strategic framework that sets out key priorities, expenditure proposals and targets for the national game (i.e., football) over a four year period. The main issues facing grassroots football are identified as:

- ◀ Growth and retention (young and adult players)
- ◀ Raising standards and behaviour
- ◀ Better players
- ◀ Running the game
- ◀ Workforce
- ◀ Facilities

'The National Game Strategy' reinforces the urgent need to provide affordable, new and improved facilities in schools, clubs and on local authority sites. Over 75% of football is played on public sector facilities. The leisure budgets of most local authorities have been reduced over recent years, resulting in decaying facilities that do not serve the community and act as a disincentive to play football. The loss of playing fields has also been well documented and adds to the pressure on the remaining facilities to cope with the demand, especially in inner city and urban areas.

The growth of the commercial sector in developing custom built five-a-side facilities has changed the overall environment. High quality, modern facilities provided by Powerleague, Goals and playfootball.net for example, have added new opportunities to participate and prompted a significant growth in the number of five-a-side teams in recent years.

The FA National Facilities Strategy (2013 – 2015)

The recently launched National Facilities Strategy sets out the FA's long term vision for development of facilities to support the National Game. It aims to address and reflect the facility needs of football within the National Game. The National Game is defined as all non-professional football from Steps 1-7 of the National League System down to recreational football played on open public space. The role of facilities will be crucial in developing the game in England. One of the biggest issues raised from 'the Big Grassroots Football Survey', by 84% of respondents, was 'poor facilities'.

The FA's vision for the future of facilities in England is to build, protect and enhance sustainable football facilities to improve the experience of the nation's favourite game. It aims to do this by:

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- ◀ Building - Provide new facilities and pitches in key locations to FA standards in order to sustain existing participation and support new participation.
- ◀ Protecting - Ensure that playing pitches and facilities are protected for the benefit of current and future participants.
- ◀ Enhancing - Invest in existing facilities and pitches, ensuring that participation in the game is sustained as well as expanded.

The Strategy commits to delivering in excess of £150m (through Football Foundation) into facility improvements across the National Game in line with identified priorities:

- ◀ Natural grass pitches improved – target: 100
- ◀ A network of new AGPs built – target: 100
- ◀ A network of refurbished AGPs – target: 150
- ◀ On selected sites, new and improved changing facilities and toilets
- ◀ Continue a small grants programme designed to address modest facility needs of clubs
- ◀ Ongoing support with the purchase and replacement of goalposts

It also commits to:

- ◀ Direct other sources of investment into FA facility priorities
- ◀ Communicate priorities for investment across the grassroots game on a regular basis
- ◀ Work closely with Sport England, the Premier League and other partners to ensure that investment is co-ordinated and targeted

England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Champion Counties Strategic Plan 2014 – 2017

The England and Wales Cricket Board unveiled a new strategic plan in May 2013 which seeks to deliver successful England teams at all levels, to produce a vibrant domestic game as well as increasing participation during the period 2014-17. It builds on the 2005 plan, Building Partnerships and the subsequent 2009 initiative, Grounds to Play.

The plan will take advantage of local partnerships developed in earlier plans and support local delivery of priorities through the County network. It targets operational excellence to make maximum use of scarce resources and facilities during a time of economic austerity.

Among the targets set under the four pillars of Effective Governance, Vibrant Domestic Game, Enthusing Participation and Successful England teams, which are relevant to the playing pitch strategy, are:

- ◀ An increase in participation as measured by Sport England's Active People Survey from 183,400 to 197,500
- ◀ Expand the number of clubs participating in NatWest CricketForce from 2,000 to 2,200
- ◀ Increase the number of cricket's volunteers to 80,000 by 2017
- ◀ Expand the number of participants in women's and disabilities cricket by 10% by 2017
- ◀ To increase the number of Twelfth Man members from 220,000 to 250,000 by 2017
- ◀ Complete an approved Community Engagement programme with all 18 First Class Counties and MCC

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- ◀ For each £1 provided in facility grants through the 'Sport England Whole Sport Plan Grant Programme' ensure a multiplier of three with other funding partners
- ◀ Provide a fund of £8.1m of capital investment to enhance floodlights, sightscreens, replay screens, power sub-stations and broadcasting facilities at First Class County venues
- ◀ Provide an interest-free loan fund to community clubs of £10 million
- ◀ Qualify and engage 50 Level 4 coaches to support the development of professional cricketers
- ◀ Expand the number of coaches who have received teacher level 1, 2 or 3 qualifications to 50,000
- ◀ Provide a fund of £2 million for community clubs to combat the impact of climate change
- ◀ Introduce a youth T20 competition engaging 500 teams by 2017

The Rugby Football Union National Facilities Strategy (2013-2017)

The recently launched RFU National Facility Strategy 2013-2017 provides a framework for development of high-quality, well-managed facilities that will help to strengthen member clubs and grow the game in communities around them. In conjunction with partners, this strategy will assist and support clubs and other organisations, so that they can continue to provide quality opportunities for all sections of the community to enjoy the game. It sets out the broad facility needs of the sport and identifies investment priorities to the game and its key partners. It identifies that with 470 grass root clubs and 1500 players there is a continuing need to invest in community club facilities in order to:

- ◀ Create a platform for growth in club rugby participation and membership, especially with a view to exploiting the opportunities afforded by RWC 2015.
- ◀ Ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of rugby clubs, through supporting not only their playing activity but also their capacity to generate revenue through a diverse range of activities and partnerships.

In summary the priorities for investment which have met the needs of the game for the previous period remain valid:

- ◀ Increase the provision of changing rooms and clubhouses that can sustain concurrent adult and junior male and female activity at clubs
- ◀ Improve the quality and quantity of natural turf pitches and floodlighting
- ◀ Increase the provision of artificial grass pitches that deliver wider game development

It is also a high priority for the RFU to target investment in the following:

- ◀ Upgrade and transform social, community and catering facilities, which can support the generation of additional revenues
- ◀ Facility upgrades, which result in an increase in energy-efficiency, in order to reduce the running costs of clubs
- ◀ Pitch furniture, including rugby posts and pads, pitch side spectator rails and grounds maintenance equipment

COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

England Hockey (EH)

'The right pitches in the right places'²¹

In 2012, EH released its facility guidance which is intended to assist organisations wishing to build or protect hockey pitches for hockey. It identifies that many existing hockey AGPs are nearing the end of their useful life as a result of the installation boom of the 90's. Significant investment is needed to update the playing stock and protect the sport against inappropriate surfaces for hockey as a result of the rising popularity of AGPs for a number of sports. EH is seeking to invest in, and endorse clubs and hockey providers which have a sound understanding of the following:

- ◀ Single System – clubs and providers which have a good understanding of the Single System and its principles and are appropriately places to support the delivery.
- ◀ Clubs First accreditation – clubs with the accreditation are recognised as producing a safe effective and child friendly hockey environment
- ◀ Sustainability – hockey providers and clubs will have an approved development plan in place showing their commitment to developing hockey, retaining members and providing an insight into longer term goals. They will also need to have secured appropriate tenure.

²¹

<http://englandhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=1143§ionTitle=The+Right+Pitches+in+the+Right+Places>

COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

2.2: Coventry context

Coventry Partnership

The Coventry Partnership is the Local Strategic Partnership for the city and comprises representatives from across the public, private, community and voluntary sectors. The Partnership brings organisations together to improve the quality of life of local residents and to improve the city as a place to live, work and play.

The Partnership manages and supports implementation of the Coventry Sustainable Community Strategy 2011-2014 with the following vision:

“Coventry proud to be a city that works...”

- ◀ To create growth, jobs and enterprise, particularly through advanced manufacturing and green technologies.
- ◀ To make the city more vibrant.
- ◀ To reduce health inequalities.
- ◀ To improve Children and Young People’s education and opportunities

With regards to culture, sport and physical activity the city’s aspiration is to develop **“a creative, active and vibrant Coventry.”**

The city has further outlined the following priorities:

- ◀ Improve equality of access so that all communities can participate in cultural, sports and physical activities.
- ◀ Raise Coventry’s cultural profile and reputation with local communities, visitors and tourists.
- ◀ Make the city centre a vibrant cultural centre.

In order to deliver these priorities the city identified a number of key actions for delivery, including the following:

- ◀ Promote cultural opportunities for the whole community and broaden cultural and sports participation.
- ◀ Work with universities, schools, colleges and other partners to facilitate and support the development of the cultural, sporting and creative sector and its businesses.
- ◀ Promote the city’s role as a sub-regional centre for culture and sport.

The city recognises that it cannot create a vibrant and active Coventry on its own and that it will require residents to play an active role in their city by becoming volunteers, visiting attractions and becoming physically active.

Coventry City Council Plan (2014-2024)

The Council Plan highlights that Coventry is ‘open for business’ with a vision to be:

- ◀ Globally connected – Promoting the growth of a sustainable Coventry economy
- ◀ Locally committed – Improving the quality of life for Coventry people
- ◀ Delivering our priorities – through:
 - Maximising the use of our assets; reducing operating costs
 - Active citizens; strong and involved communities

COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Within the Council Plan, it is clear that culture, sport and events have a significant contribution to make in promoting the growth of a sustainable Coventry economy that benefits the city and in improving the quality of life for Coventry residents. Specifically, this will include:

- ◀ Raising the profile of Coventry through promoting Coventry as a visitor destination and centre for arts and events.
- ◀ Increasing the range of opportunities for people to access arts and cultural events.
- ◀ Improving the health and wellbeing of local residents by helping them lead healthier lifestyles
- ◀ Reducing health inequalities by giving our children the best start in life.

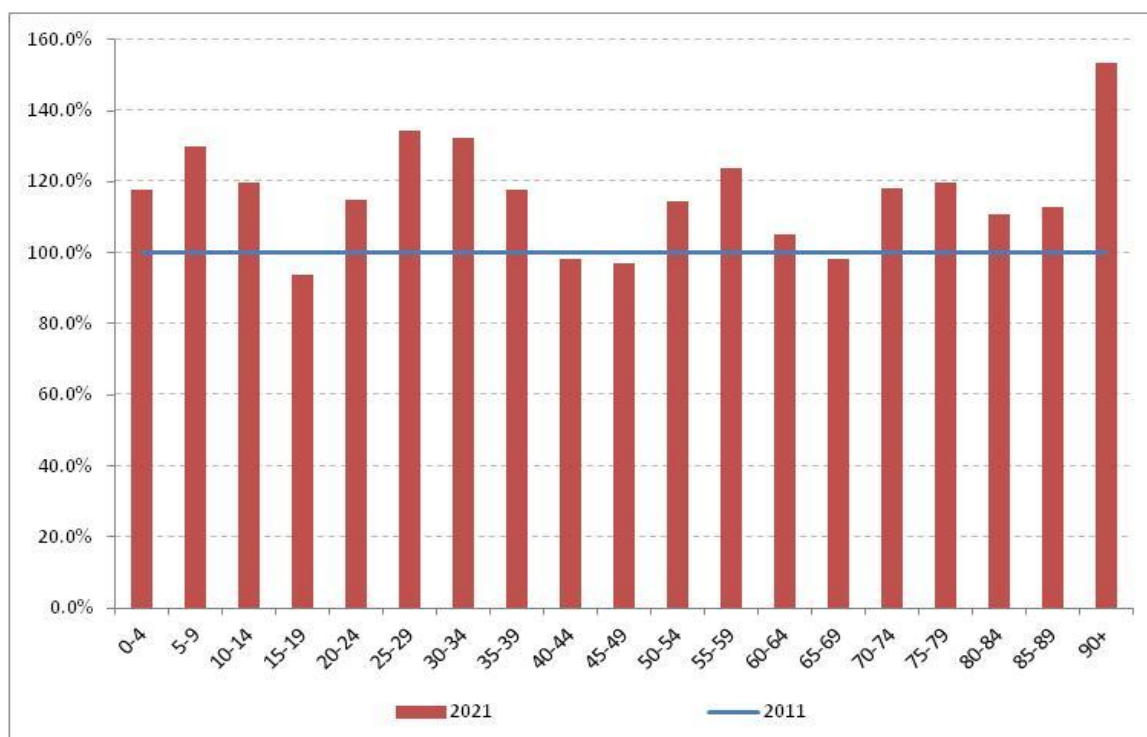
2.3 Demographic profile

Like many other cities in the Country Coventry has a number of challenges

Population

Around 323,100 people are currently resident in Coventry (2013 mid-year estimate based on ONS population data for cities). This compares with 300,848 in 2001 - an increase of 22,252 (+7.4%). It is anticipated that the population will continue to grow through to 2021 and that the profile of the age groups within the City will change significantly. The following chart identifies the recent changes in specific age bands, with the most notable change being the growth in the 90+ age group, but also compared to wider growth the slight reduction in the 15-19, 40-44, 45-49 and 65-69 age groups.

Age specific projections 2021 compared to an index of 100 for 2011: Coventry



Source: Derived from ONS 2011 based projections

COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Ethnicity

At the time of the 2001 Census, just under 1 in 6 of Coventry's population (16%) classified themselves as 'non-white', the largest proportion being Asian (11.3%), this compared to national rates of 9.1% and 4.6% respectively.

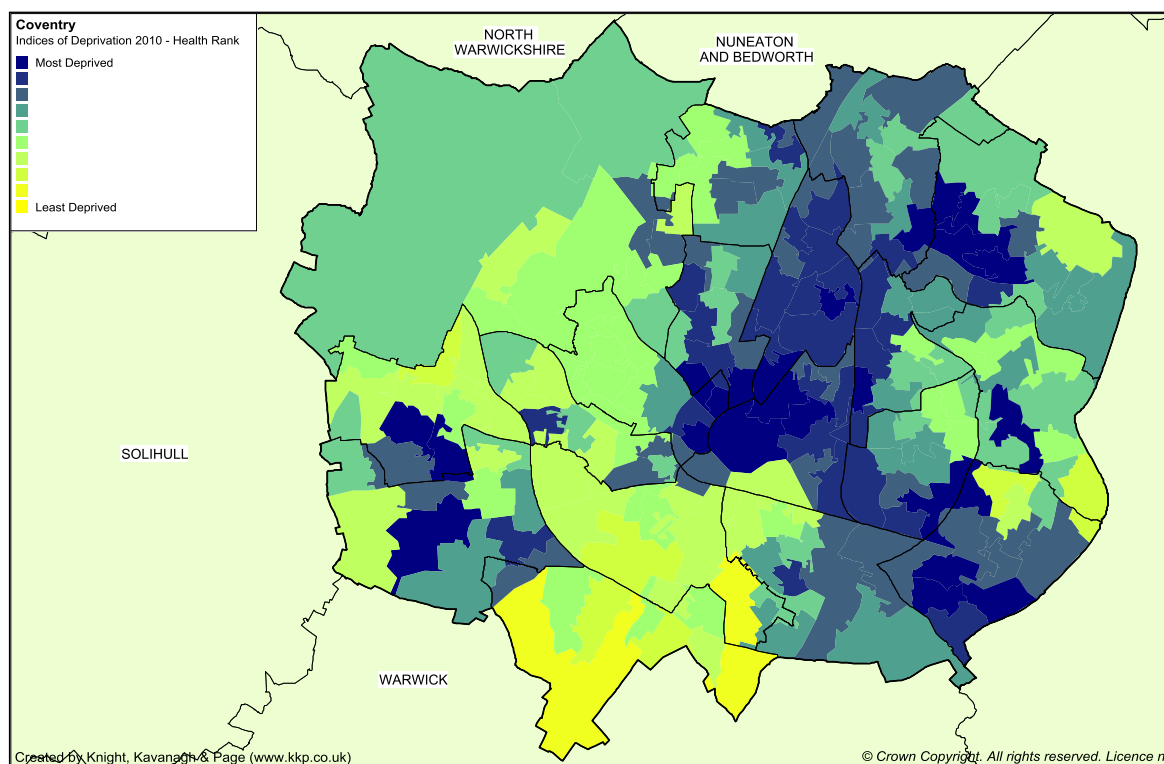
By 2007 it was estimated that just over a quarter of the population in Coventry are from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Groups. Analysis of Coventry's school population identified that about a third of children in Coventry's schools were from a BME background. Coventry's school population had become more diverse still. As a result of the younger age structure of the BME communities in Coventry it is anticipated that by 2031 just over a third (35%) of the city's population will be people from a BME background.

Health

26.8% of Coventry's population live in areas with the highest levels of health deprivation compared to 19.7% nationally. The following map identifies the key communities facing health deprivation issues.

As can be seen by comparing the two facing maps against that of population density (see later), the areas with the largest numbers of people are often those experiencing the highest levels of deprivation.

Indices of Deprivation 2010 – Health rank



COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Obesity

Department of Health (DoH) data indicates that one in four (25.6%) of the City's adults are obese; this is slightly higher than the national average of 24.2%. Similarly, data on children indicates one in five (20.3%) to be obese; this is again above the national rate of 18.7%.

Life expectancy

DoH data for life expectancy in years indicates that both male (76.8 years) and female (81.4 years) rates are below their respective national comparators of 78.3 and 82.3 years.

Health cost of inactivity

The DoH's report 'Be Active, Be Healthy'²² (2006/07) reported the health cost of inactivity for each PCT in the country; Coventry's cost was determined to be £3.62 million per annum. This equates to a cost per person of £11.31 compared to a national average of £15.31. It is likely that this lower than average cost reflects the city's relatively young age structure.

2.4 Sports participation

The following information has been identified from a detailed analysis of the participation information which is available for Coventry, from Sport England's Active People Survey Active People 6. The main findings of this are as follows.

- ◀ 53.2% of the adult population do not do take part in any sport or physical activity lasting for 30 minutes or longer, which is above the national and regional equivalents and female inactivity (61.3%) is significantly higher than the equivalent male rate (45.0%).
- ◀ Age clearly plays a role and inactivity rates are highest amongst those aged 55+ (67.9%) and lowest for young adults aged 16-25 (43.3%).
- ◀ Regular female activity (15.2%) is less than half of the corresponding male rate (31.3%) which is itself much higher than the national (25.2%) and regional (23.8%) equivalents.
- ◀ The impact of age is most significant for regular participation. Rates of regular participation amongst 16-25 year olds (32.2%) are noticeably higher than for other age groups (35-54 years 23.5%, 55+ years 14.7%).
- ◀ 6.3% of the city's adults are sports volunteers for at least one hour a week; 23.6% are members of a sports club; 15.5% receive sports tuition or coaching and 13.8% take part in organised sports competition(s).
- ◀ The top five sports are gym and keep fit, football, swimming, athletics and cycling.
- ◀ Based on Sport England's market segmentation model, the participation structure for each of these sports indicates:
 - ◀ 8.5% of Coventry's adults are Jamies - they represent 11.1% of its gym and fitness participants, 33.8% of footballers 17.5% of athletes and 11.4% of cyclists;
 - ◀ 8.7% are Kevs - they represent 14.9% of footballers and 11.0% of cyclists;
 - ◀ 5.7% are Jackies - they represent 8.9% of swimmers; and
 - ◀ 9.3% are Elsie & Arnolds - they represent 4.8% of swimmers and 5.4% doing keep fit.

²² Research undertaken by Oxford University on behalf of the British Heart Foundation; it relates specifically to five diseases defined by the World Health Organisation as having a relationship to physical inactivity.

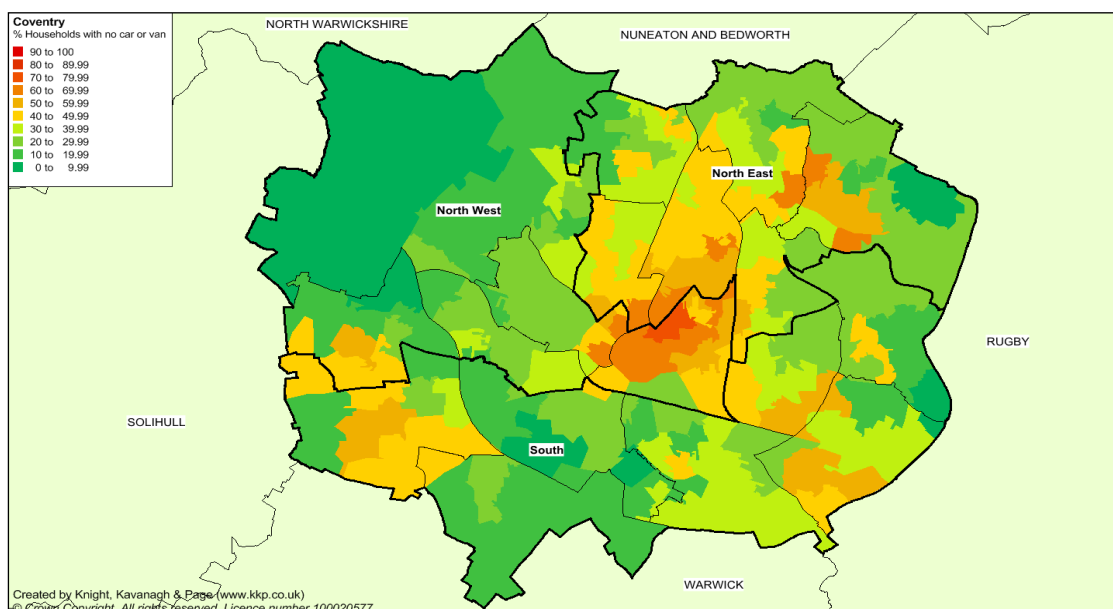
COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

The following findings are from the national (APS6) data which, although not specific to Coventry, provides an insight and context to Coventry's key sports played by its dominant segments:

- ▶ Football is a predominantly male activity with more than 9 in 10 participants being men. Conversely, just under 9 in 10 of those taking part in keep fit exercises and 6 in 10 swimmers are women, while 6 in 10 of those taking part in athletics and two thirds of cyclists are men.
- ▶ Similarly, three quarters of footballers are under the age of 35; relatively few 16-24 year olds do aerobics or keep fit, whilst cycling, swimming and athletics are characterised by an even spread throughout the cohorts up to 64 years.
- ▶ Cycling and athletics can also be seen as 'doorstep' sports (start/finish at home); swimming and athletics can also be relatively inexpensive start-up sports.
- ▶ Although the worst of the recession is thought to have passed, consumers remain cautious and continue to favour cheaper venues for their sports participation.
- ▶ More than half of adult participants spend less than £5 a week on playing sport. Even at these prices, young people often struggle to afford to play sport as youth unemployment remains high and students and young earners are often under financial pressure.
- ▶ Although women make up just over half the UK population, they remain very much in the minority among the country's sports participants.
- ▶ Only one in eight women (2.76 million) play sport regularly, compared to one in five men (4.18 million) and the female ratio drops to one in ten within disadvantaged communities.
- ▶ Ageing of the UK's population combined with an improved ability for older people to stay active is creating a new market for which time barriers and money are less of an issue.

One of the significant issues that affect the future planning of sports facilities, their location and accessibility is the degree of car ownership. In Coventry almost one in three households do not have access to a car. The following map identifies the degree of car ownership across the City.

Figure: Percentage of households with no car or van (Census 2001)



COVENTRY

PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Although the above map is based on 2001 Census data, it is not envisaged that there has been significant change in the level of access to a car in the City. The above map highlights particularly low levels of access to a car in the St Michael's and Foleshill wards. The north east analysis area as a whole has the lowest levels of access to a car. In many of its key communities it is important to consider provision which is accessible on foot.

2.5 Neighbouring authorities

The following sections take account of neighbouring authority plans and proposals, which may impact upon the provision of playing pitch and outdoor sports provision in Coventry. It summarises the findings of existing playing pitch strategies (where applicable).

North Warwickshire

Undertaken in 2010 by KKP, it provides a clear, strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of existing playing pitches, outdoor sports facilities and ancillary facilities between 2010 and 2021.

Analysis of match play identified that current demand for adult football pitches and for mini and junior pitches is greatest on a Saturday. At peak times of demand there are insufficient pitches to accommodate all playing commitments. Furthermore, it is also important that overplay is factored in as there are currently not enough pitches to accommodate existing playing commitments in some areas.

Consultation suggests that there is an increasing need for investment in ancillary facilities. The majority of users commented on poor quality changing facilities across the city. Clubs identify that a lack of good quality changing is a concern in terms of attracting junior players and retaining adult players.

Supply and demand analysis found there is likely to be significant deficiency in both junior (-18.4) and mini-soccer pitches (-11.4) across North Warwickshire by 2021. In contrast, it found there would be a surplus of senior football pitches (18.7). As a result a key recommendation of the Strategy is to accommodate junior and mini-soccer pitches through the surplus of senior pitches, rather than releasing them for development.

Nuneaton & Bedworth

The 2010 report replaces the previous assessment undertaken in 2000. It identifies a shortfall of 5.4 mini soccer pitches at peak time (Sunday am). It highlights that, at all times during the week, there are sufficient numbers of pitches to support the existing number of teams. However, in terms of junior football there is a shortfall of 23.3 pitches at peak time (Sunday pm).

The future (up to 2015) supply and demand analysis identifies a shortfall of 6.4 mini soccer pitches during peak time (Sunday am), highlighting that this deficit will have increased by an additional pitch when compared to current provision levels. The shortfall in junior pitch provision at peak time remains similar to those projected for the current position - a deficit of 23.8 pitches in 2015, compared to a current deficit of 23.3 pitches.

In 2015, there will be a slight deficiency in cricket pitch provision compared with team demand. Although this deficiency is predicted to be 0.1 pitches, current provision levels show that there is sufficient provision to meet existing team requirements.

Rugby

COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Undertaken by a consultancy in 2010 the playing pitch strategy for Rugby was not approved by Sport England due its lack of robustness. A review of the Draft Playing Pitch Assessment (provided to KKP by Sport England) reports that the large urban population of Coventry is close to Rugby's boundary and that some of the demand for playing fields in Rugby may be arising from Coventry teams as they cross over the border to use Rugby facilities.

The Draft Report suggest that there will be a need for substantial additional playing field space for football by 2021, and this will increase further by 2026. By 2021 the shortfall is around 22 hectares in total, and by 2026 it is expected to increase to around 34 hectares across the authority.

Excluding the proposed provision within the two Core Strategy Allocation sites (Sustainable Urban Extensions) of approximately 12 hectares, there will be a need for an extra 22 hectares of playing field space for football across the rest of Rugby Borough in the period up to 2026, taking the total provision of playing field space required for football from 72 hectares currently to 106 hectares.

The report identifies that this is particularly the case with Broad Street Rugby Club who have indicated that they consider themselves to be a Coventry club, and a that a large majority of their members are drawn from outside the Borough.

At the time of the assessment (2010) it was reported that there were sufficient pitches for cricket across the authority as a whole. However, there is an uneven distribution of pitches across the authority, with the southern area having a large surplus, but other areas having little or no provision. A key issue for the future is therefore accessibility, rather than simply the quantity of provision. However, by 2026 the total need for playing field space for cricket (at two hectares per pitch) rises from 16 hectares currently to a need for 24 hectares, which is the one cricket pitch less than is already available for cricket. If the pitches had been more evenly distributed across the authority, there would be no case for additional cricket provision within the SUEs. However, given that both Rugby Town East and Rugby Town North together have too little capacity to meet the planned populations within these areas, and the geographical distance from the SUEs to the existing cricket sites in the North sub- area, there is a clear need, based on accessibility, for additional capacity to be provided with the SUEs, the Radio Masts and Gateway sites.

Warwick

Warwick District Council has commissioned a consultancy to produce its Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) which will guide future provision and management of sports pitches in the district. The Strategy is still in progress and has not yet been adopted by the District Council.

Displaced demand

However, consultation with Warwick District Council identifies there are a number of key sites that fall within the District Council boundaries but have residents from the Coventry area such as Westwood Heath FC and Alvis FC. In addition, the recent 3G AGP at Meadows Community Sports Centre, Warwick has a wide catchment and it is likely there is usage from Coventry residents.

COVENTRY PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Solihull

Undertaken in 2012 by KKP the playing pitch assessment report found that the analysis of senior pitches suggests there is a significant oversupply of pitches (32 in total). However, there is an identified large shortfall of junior pitches which is attributed to the fact that the vast majority demand for pitches play is played on a Saturday. With the vast majority of play occurring on the same day, this creates significant pressure on pitches to accommodate all matches. Future projections (to 2026) suggest that there will be a surplus of senior pitches and a shortfall of mini and junior pitches.

The large majority of football pitches were assessed as either 'good' or 'average' quality. This is generally reinforced by users with over four fifth of clubs (85%) rating the quality of their designated home pitch as either 'good' or 'average'.

High level of latent demand was expressed for additional access to cricket pitches, with five clubs reporting demand. In addition to participation increases due to population growth, the report identified that it is likely that women's and girls' cricket participation will increase if the national target to establish two junior girls' and a women's team in every local authority over the next five years is achieved.

The analysis identifies a current shortfall of both senior and mini rugby union pitches across the Borough (-13.5 senior and -9.0 mini pitches) which is greatest in the central Area (-7.5 senior and -4.0 mini pitches). In addition, high levels of latent demand for three senior pitches is expressed (which is not factored into the PPM figures) further adds to the shortfall of senior pitches.

Demand for hockey in Solihull is high with four clubs fielding 32 competitive senior teams, plus good junior sections. There are nine full size AGPs, suitable for competitive hockey in Solihull. However, two of these pitches (i.e. Arden Academy and Solihull School) are not available for community use and two pitches (i.e., Grace Academy and Smiths Wood College) have extremely limited access for community use.

Sport England's Facilities Planning Model estimates that Solihull has sufficient pitches to meet current demand. However, this does not include displaced demand and take into account that all hockey clubs plan to increase the number of teams they have over the next two to three years.