KNIGHT, KAVANAGH & PAGE

OLDHAM COUNCIL:
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

ASSESSMENT REPORT
FEBRUARY 2025

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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OLDHAM PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

CONTENTS

ABBREVIATIONS....1
PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY....2
1.1: Introduction....2
1.2: Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach....2
1.3: Stage B: Gather information and views on the supply of and demand for provision....6
1.4: Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views....11
PART 2: FOOTBALL....13
2.1: Introduction....13
2.2: Supply....14
2.3: Demand....21
2.4: Capacity analysis....31
2.5: Supply and demand analysis....39
2.6: Conclusion....42
PART 3: THIRD GENERATION TURF (3G) ARTIFICIAL GRASS PITCHES (AGPS)....44
3.1: Introduction....44
3.2: Supply....44
3.3: Demand....53
3.4: Supply and demand analysis....55
3.5: Conclusion....59
PART 4: CRICKET....61
4.1: Introduction....61
4.2: Supply....62
4.3: Demand....71
4.4: Capacity analysis....76
4.5: Supply and demand analysis....82
4.6: Conclusion....84
PART 5: RUGBY LEAGUE....85
5.1: Introduction....85
5.2: Supply....85
5.3: Demand....91
5.4: Capacity analysis....94
5.5: Supply and demand analysis....98
5.6: Conclusion....99

PART 6: RUGBY UNION 101
6.1: Introduction 101
6.2: Supply 101
6.3: Demand 105
6.4: Capacity analysis 108
6.5: Supply and demand analysis 111
6.6: Conclusion 111
PART 7: HOCKEY 113
7.1: Introduction 113
7.2: Supply 114
7.3: Demand 115
7.4: Supply and demand analysis 119
7.5: Conclusion 119
PART 8: BOWLING GREENS 121
8.1: Introduction 121
8.2: Supply 122
8.3: Demand 127
8.4: Supply and demand analysis 129
8.5: Conclusion 131
PART 9: TENNIS COURTS 132
9.1: Introduction 132
9.2: Supply 132
9.3: Demand 139
9.4: Supply and demand analysis 144
9.5: Conclusion 145
PART 10: PADEL 147
10.1: Introduction 147
10.2: Supply 147
10.3: Demand 147
10.4: Conclusion 148
PART 11: ATHLETICS 149
11.1: Introduction 149
11.2: Supply 150
11.3: Demand 151
11.4: Supply and demand analysis 153
11.5: Conclusion 153

PART 12: NETBALL COURTS 155
12.1: Introduction 155
12.2: Supply 155
12.3: Demand 159
12.4: Supply and demand analysis 161
12.5: Conclusion 161
PART 13: GOLF 163
13.1: Introduction 163
13.2: Supply 163
12.3: Demand 169
13.4: Supply and demand analysis 172
13.5: Conclusion 172
PART 14: MULTI USE GAMES AREAS (MUGAS) 174
14.1: Introduction 174
14.2: Supply 174
14.3: Demand 178
14.4: Supply and demand 178
APPENDIX 1: SPORTING CONTEXT 179
APPENDIX 2: NON TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT SHEETS 192

ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
OC	Oldham Council
BCGBA	British Crown Green Bowling Association
CFA	County Football Association
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EN	England Netball
EG	England Golf
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FF	Football Foundation
FE	Further Education
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
GBA	Governing Bodies Association
HE	Higher Education
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LFA	Lancashire County Football Association
MFA	Manchester Football Association
LCF	Lancashire Cricket Foundation
NGB	National Governing Body
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
PPOSS	Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sports Strategy
PfE	Places for Everyone
RFL	Rugby Football League
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RUFC	Rugby union football club
S106	Section 106
SE	Sport England
TGR	Team generation rate
WR	World Rugby
WRCFA	West Riding County Football Association

PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

1.1: Introduction

This is the Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS) Assessment Report prepared by Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP) for Oldham Council (OC) and its partners. It replaces the previous Oldham PPOSS from 2017. The PPOSS builds on the assessment of open spaces carried out through Oldham's Open Space Study (2023)[1].

The 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 to C are covered in this report.

1.2: Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach

Prepare and tailor the approach

The primary purpose of the PPOSS is to provide a strategic framework which ensures that the provision of outdoor playing pitches and sports facilities meet the local needs of existing and future residents across Oldham. The Strategy will be produced in accordance with Sport England Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance (October 2013 as updated in March 2014), ANOG guidance for non-pitch sports and the national planning guidance and provide robust and objective justification for future playing pitch provision throughout the Borough.

Concern at national government level over the loss of playing fields prompted the development of localised playing pitch assessments and strategies which identify current and future requirements for playing fields. Developing a strategic approach to the analysis of playing pitch supply and demand is necessary to:

- Protect playing pitches against development pressures in, and around, urban areas.
- Identify pitch (natural grass and artificial) supply and demand issues in relation to predicated population changes.
- Address 'demand' pressures created as a result of specific sports development pressures e.g., growth of mini soccer and wider use of artificial grass pitches.
- To provide a mechanism to enable the Council to reach decisions in plan making and developing management decision making processes.

[1] Oldham's Open Space Study (2023): https://www.oldham.gov.uk/downloads/download/2184/open_space_study_documents_2022

The Oldham PPOSS will provide an evidence base for planning decisions and funding bids and will ensure that this evidence is sound, robust and capable of being scrutinised through examination whilst meeting the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

Why the PPOSS is being developed

The previous Oldham PPOSS (2017) is now considered to be out of date. It requires a full update of both supply and demand data in order to comply with Sport England PPS guidance and ANOG for non-pitch sports.

A new PPOSS will provide an up-to-date evidence base to inform policy for the provision of new, and the improvement of existing, outdoor sports facilities to ensure the planned housing growth is supported by appropriate sporting infrastructure. The PPOSS will also supersede the current Open Space Study[2] in relation to outdoor sports facilities.

The PPOSS will be a valuable piece of evidence that will inform the work of several sections within the Council. The PPOSS will help deliver the following objectives:

- Help to deliver the Council's vision for the Borough of a clean, green future, a Place Based approach and for healthy, safe and supported residents, as set out within The Corporate Plan (2021) and The Oldham Plan (2023).
- Provide a robust understanding of playing pitch provision, identify local needs and set out a direction for future sports development for pitch sports.
- Provide an evidence base for securing developer contributions as part of new development towards pitches and facilities; and to support funding bids to national sports bodies and organisations for sport development.
- The PPOSS will include an Action Plan which will prioritise sites for investment.

Planning

- Provide evidence to support Oldham's Local Plan, including supporting policies on green infrastructure, open space, sport and recreation, health and wellbeing, and developer contributions.
- In doing the above, the PPOSS will meet requirements for Local Plan policies to be based on proportionate evidence as set out in NPPF and in Places for Everyone (PfE). PfE requires that the provision of sports facilities is determined by individual local authorities through an evidence-based approach, and the provision of sports facilities should be encouraged within all new educational settings based on needs identified within the evidence base.

Operational

- Provide updated evidence to support asset management of the Council's pitches, which should result in more efficient use of resources and reduce overheads.
- Inform decisions on where quality of provision can be enhanced or where new provision may be required.
- Provide an assessment of how pitches are used and whether the current maintenance and management regimes are appropriate or require change.

Sports development

- Identify the level of use, and by whom and whether that use is secure or not.
- Identify where community use of school sports pitches is most needed to address any identified deficits in pitch provision.

[2] Open Space Study

- Provide up-to-date information to residents and other users of sports pitches available for use. This includes information about both pitches and sports teams/user groups.
- Promotes sports development and can help to meet community needs, as can help unlock latent demand by identifying where the lack of facilities might be suppressing the formation of teams or participation in sport.

Local context

Oldham Local Plan

Oldham Council is preparing a new Local Plan that will guide future development in the Borough through to 2041.

Places for Everyone (PfE) Joint Development Plan was adopted on 21st March 2024 and now forms part of Oldham's Development Plan. PfE is a Joint Development Plan for the nine districts of Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan. PfE provides support with strategic planning matters that are of significance across the Joint Plan area (such as identifying future levels of housing and employment growth, as well as policies related to the environment, climate change and transport).

Oldham's Local Plan will contain a range of locally specific planning policies, including those on the protection and improvement of open space provision. Further information on the preparation of the Local Plan is available online[3].

National Planning Policy Framework (2024)

One of the core planning principles of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs.

Section eight of the NPPF deals specifically with the topic of healthy communities, with Paragraph 103 stating that "planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate."

Paragraph 104 sets three criterion that ensures existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields and formal play spaces, should not be built on unless:

a) An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
b) The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
c) The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.

[3] See Local Development Scheme Timetable for updates: https://www.oldham.gov.uk/info/201231/emerging_planning_policy/230/local_development_scheme_timetable

Paragraphs 105, 106, and 107 set the parameters for the designation of Local Green Space. Such spaces may include playing fields and outdoor sport facilities.

Management arrangements

A project team from the Council has worked with KKP to ensure that all relevant information is readily available and to support the consultants as necessary to ensure that project stages and milestones are delivered on time, within the cost envelope and to the required standard to meet Sport England guidance.

Further to this, a Steering Group is and has been responsible for the direction of the PPOSS from a strategic perspective and for supporting, checking and challenging the work of the project team. The Steering Group is made up of representatives from the Council, Sport England and the relevant National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs).

It will be important for the Steering Group to continue to meet once the PPOSS 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 PPOSS.
- Ensure implementation of the recommendations and action plan.
- Monitor and evaluate the outcomes of the PPOSS.
- Ensure that the PPOSS is kept up to date and refreshed.

Agreed scope

The scope of the PPOSS focuses on all local provision, regardless of ownership and management arrangements. Sports included within the project are as follows:

- Football pitches.
- Third generation artificial grass (3G) pitches.
- Cricket pitches.
- Rugby union pitches.
- Hockey artificial grass pitches (AGPs).
- Rugby league pitches.
- Athletics facilities.
- Tennis courts.
- Netball courts.
- MUGAs (multi use games areas).
- Bowling greens.
- Golf facilities.

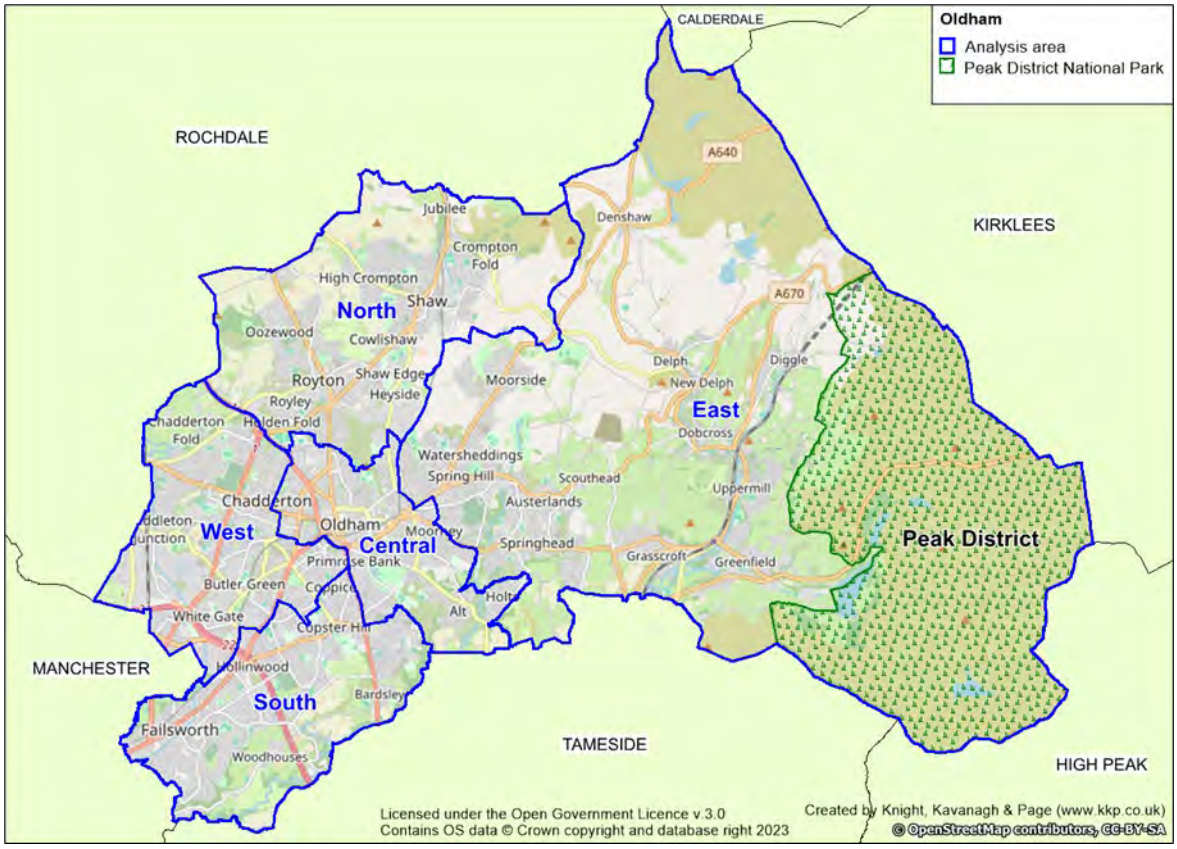
Study area

The assessment covers the Borough boundary area of Oldham; however, the data gathered has been presented in such a way as to be further analysed by smaller analysis areas. There are also a number of sports teams from inside Oldham that use facilities outside of the Borough. This cross-boundary movement has been taken into consideration when producing this assessment report.

For the purpose of this analysis, Oldham has been broken down into five analysis/district areas as seen below.

- Central.
- East.
- North.
- South.
- West.

Figure 1.1: Map of Oldham with analysis areas



It should be noted that there is currently no provision within the Peak District, however, any future PPOSS matter which may impact the Peak Park should be addressed through ongoing Duty to Cooperate meetings. Oldham Council is the Local Planning Authority for the Central, East, North, West and South analysis areas. However, it should be noted that Oldham Council is not the Local Planning Authority for the Peak District.

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

A clear picture of the supply of and demand for playing pitches and outdoor sport facilities in the Borough is required to enable an accurate assessment of quantity, quality and usage. This is achieved through site assessments and consultation with key stakeholders.

Gather supply information and views – an audit of playing pitches

Sport England's guidance uses the following definitions of a playing pitch and playing field. These definitions are set out by the Government in the 2015 'Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) Order'.

- ***Playing field*** – the whole of a site that encompasses at least one playing pitch.
- ***Playing pitch*** – a delineated area which, together with any run-off area, is of 0.2 hectares or more, and which is used for association football, American football, rugby, cricket, hockey, lacrosse, rounders, baseball, softball, Australian football, Gaelic football, shinty, hurling, polo or cycle polo.

Although the statutory definition of a playing field sets out a minimum size, this PPOSS takes account of smaller sized pitches that contribute to the supply side. For example, a site containing a mini 5v5 football pitch is included despite it potentially being smaller than 0.2ha.

The study counts individual grass pitches (as a delineated area) as the basic unit of supply, with the definition of a playing pitch also including artificial grass pitches (AGPs).

Quantity

Where known, all outdoor sports facilities are included within the PPOSS, irrespective of ownership, management and use. Sites were initially identified using Sport England's Active Places web-based database, with the Council and NGBs supporting this process by checking and updating this initial data as well as by supplying their own affiliation data.

For each site, the following details were recorded in the accompanying project database:

- Site name, address (including postcode) and location.
- Ownership and management type.
- Security of tenure.
- Community availability.
- Total number, type and quality of provision.
- Usage levels.

Accessibility

Not all outdoor sports facilities offer the same level of access to the community. The ownership and accessibility of also influences their actual availability for community use.

Each site is assigned a level of community use as follows:

- ***Community use*** – facilities in public, voluntary, private or commercial ownership or management (including education sites) recorded as being available for hire and currently in use by teams/members/individuals (depending on the sport).
- ***Available but unused*** - facilities that are available for hire but are not currently used externally; this most often applies to school sites but can also apply to sites which are expensive to hire or particularly poor quality.
- ***No community use*** - facilities which are, as a matter of policy or practice, unavailable for external hire. This includes professional club pitches along with some semi-professional club pitches where play is restricted to the first or second team of the host club.
- ***Disused playing field*** – any sites where outdoor sports facilities were once provided but are no longer used, yet they remain undeveloped and could therefore be brought back into use.

The lawful use of a disused playing field is still that of a playing field until such time as it is developed for a non-pitch sport permitted use or its use is formally changed through the planning system. There is no positive obligation, under planning law, for a playing field to be actively used as such.

In addition, there should be a good degree of certainty that provision will be available to the community for at least the following three years. If this is not the case, the provision is still included within the report but is noted as having unsecure tenure. A judgement is made based on the information gathered and a record of secured or unsecured community use put against each site.

Table 1.1: Disused playing field and outdoor sport sites in Oldham

Site name	APP ID	Postcode	Sport(s)	Comments
Chapel Road	1103388	OL8 4QY	Football	One 3G pitch which hasn't been used for six years due to bad surface quality and poor sports lighting.
Grange Synthetic Pitch	1010148	OL9 6AL	Hockey	One disused full size AGP which hasn't been used *circa* 2016
Merton Playing Fields	6007918	OL8 4JF	Football	Previously had one youth 11v11 football pitch marked. It should be noted that the site can accommodate more than one pitch as in previous years it accommodated four pitches.
Haggate	6007820	OL2 5EB	Football	Previously had one youth 11v11 football pitch marked. The pitch has been unused for *circa* five years and is currently overgrown, the Council suggests that if demand arises it could bring the pitch back into use.
Oldham Sports for All Centre	1003906	OL8 3PH	Hockey	One disused full size AGP which hasn't been used *circa* 2013
Tate Street	6007784	OL8 2DD	Football	Previously had two adult football pitch marked.

There are also three identified sites which have previously been known to mark sports pitches on playing field but had none recorded during the development of the PPOSS. These are detailed below.

- Lyndhurst Primary & Nursery School (OL8 4DJ) – previously had one youth 11v11 football pitch marked.
- St John's Church of England Primary School (M35 9PY) – previously had one youth 11v11 football pitch marked.
- St Marys CE Primary School (OL2 7PP) – previously had one mini 7v7 football pitch marked.

There are some existing playing field sites which may be able to or have previously accommodated more pitches than are presently marked. Where known, these will be identified through the PPOSS.

There may also be sites which are no longer prepared and used for formal sport but serve another function, such as a public open space or a park. These sites should not be considered disused as they continue to operate to meet other services and can provide opportunity to create additional pitches in the future.

One grass pitch site has been lost since the previous PPS, provision at the Lancaster Club (M35 0BH) has been lost to development, although as part of the permissions, mitigation was required for the loss of the pitch which was agreed to be replaced by a new Soccer Centre on the land to the north of the site. The Soccer Centre was granted planning permission in 2015; however, it has not been implemented and the permission has now lapsed. Furthermore, pitch provision at Coalshaw Green Park has also been lost due to a new housing development and replaced with a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA).

Quality

The capacity of provision 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 provision affects the playing experience and people's enjoyment of a sport. In extreme circumstances, it can result in a facility being unable to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off-peak times.

The quality of all provision identified in the audit and the ancillary facilities supporting them are assessed as part of a PPOSS, regardless of ownership, management or availability. Along with capturing any details specific to the individual facilities and sites, a quality rating is also recorded within the audit for each. These ratings are then used to help estimate the capacity (aligned to NGB guidance) to accommodate competitive and other play within the supply and demand assessment.

To ensure accurate findings, site assessments for each sport are carried out during the playing season for that sport. As such, the site assessments for sports played in the winter (e.g. football, rugby union, hockey) are conducted between November and February, whilst the sports played in the summer (e.g. tennis, bowls, cricket, rugby league) have assessments carried out between July and September. It should be noted that tennis has been covered during the winter assessments as agreed with the LTA.

In addition to undertaking non-technical assessments (using the templates provided within the guidance and as determined by NGBs), users and providers have also been consulted on the quality. In some instances, the quality rating has been adjusted to reflect this (thus establishing an "agreed quality rating").

It should be noted that if any recent technical assessments have been carried out, such as PitchPower or Performance Quality Standards (PQS), these will supersede the non-technical assessments ratings. Information surrounding these technical assessments and will be referenced, where relevant, within the individual sports in the Assessment Report.

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 Oldham tends to fall within the following categories:

- Organised competitive play.
- Organised training.
- Informal play.

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

In addition, unmet, latent, imported and exported demand for provision is also identified within each section. Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to provision. It is usually expressed, for example, when a team is already training but is unable to access a match pitch, or when a league has a waiting list due to a lack of provision, which in turn is hindering growth.

Latent demand is defined as the number of additional teams/users that could be fielded if access to sufficient provision (and ancillary provision) was available, whereas exported and imported demand refers to those that are playing outside of their local authority area of choice.

A variety of consultation methods were used to collate such demand information. Firstly, either face-to-face consultations or virtual consultations via Teams/Zoom has been carried out with key clubs from each sport, thus allowing for the collection of detailed demand information and an exploration of key issues to be interrogated and more accurately assessed. For all remaining clubs, an online survey (converted to postal if required) has been utilised.

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

As key providers and users of playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities, educational establishments have also been consulted. This involves face-to-face meetings with secondary, independent schools and colleges and surveys being sent to primary and SEND schools.

Future demand

Alongside current demand, it is important for a PPOSS to assess whether the future demand for provision can be met. Using Office of National Statistics (ONS) population projections and proposed housing growth, as well as likely participation growth informed through consultation, an estimate can be made of the likely future demand for the relevant facilities. Assumptions can then be made as to whether existing provision can cater for such growth.

Team generation rates are used to provide an indication as to how many people it may take to generate a team (by gender and age group). This ratio is then applied to predicted population growth to help estimate the change in demand for each sport that may arise in the future. Other information sources that were used to help identify future demand include:

- Recent trends in the participation.
- The nature of the current and likely future population and their propensity to participate.
- Feedback from clubs on plans to develop additional teams / attract additional members.
- Any local and NGB specific sports development targets e.g., women’s and girls.

All future demand projections across the PPOSS for Oldham cover the period to 2041, in line with the Council's Local Plan and PfE plan period, also to enable the provision of robust evidence base.

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

Supply and demand information gathered is used to assess the adequacy of playing pitch and outdoor sport provision in Oldham and to identify key issues, challenges and aspirations. This forms the basis of this report.

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. For playing pitch sports, the quality and use of each pitch is assessed against recommended capacity to indicate how many match equivalent sessions (MES) provision could accommodate.

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.	

As a guide, the NGBs for football, cricket, rugby union, rugby league and hockey have set a standard number of matches that each pitch type should be able to accommodate without adversely affecting its quality. Given how the sports operate, this is per week for football and the rugby codes, per day for hockey and per season for cricket.

Table 1.2: Capacity of playing pitches in match equivalent sessions

Sport	Pitch type	Good quality	Standard quality	Poor quality
Football	Adult pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Football	Youth pitches	4 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Football	Mini pitches	6 per week	4 per week	2 per week
Rugby union	Natural Inadequate (D0)	2 per week	1.5 per week	0.5 per week
Rugby union	Natural Adequate (D1)	3 per week	2 per week	1.5 per week
Rugby union	Pipe Drained (D2)	3.25 per week	2.5 per week	1.75 per week
Rugby union	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	3.5 per week	3 per week	2 per week
Rugby league	Adult pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Rugby league	Junior pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	4 per season	0 per season
Cricket	One synthetic wicket	60 per season	60 per season	60 per season
Hockey	One AGP	4 matches per day	4 matches per day	0 matches per day

For 3G pitches midweek capacity is assessed through programming information which is received from providers through consultation.

For non-pitch sports, capacity is not linked to the number of matches taking place but rather the number of members (and other users) attracted to a site. For example, for tennis, a sports lit hard court is said to have capacity for 60 members, whereas a non-

sports lit has court has capacity for 40 members (this varies for grass courts). Other sport specific capacity guidance is detailed within the relevant sections of this report.

Develop the current and future picture of provision

Once capacity is determined on a site-by-site basis, actual spare capacity is calculated on a Borough-wide and an area-by-area basis via further interrogation of peak time demand (i.e. the day/time demand is most likely to exist). This then identifies whether there is overall spare capacity on provision or whether there is a shortfall.

Although spare capacity may be identified at some sites and in some areas, it does not necessarily mean that there is surplus provision. For example, spare capacity may not be available when it is needed (actual spare capacity), or a site may be retained in a 'strategic reserve' to enable rotation and to reduce wear and tear. There may also be a need to discount some capacity, for example at poor quality sites that should not be used or at unsecure sites where long-term access cannot be guaranteed.

Once current capacity has been determined, future capacity can also be calculated via incorporating the future demand that has been identified as well as unmet, latent and exported demand.

Identify the key findings and issues

By completing the above steps, it is possible to identify several findings and issues relating to the supply, demand and adequacy of outdoor sports provision in Oldham. This report seeks to identify and present the key findings and issues prior to developing the Strategy.

The following sections summarise the local administration of the included playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities. Each provides a quantitative summary of provision and a map showing the distribution of facilities. Information about the availability of facilities to/for the local community and the governing body of each sport is also provided as are any key issues.

PART 2: FOOTBALL

2.1: Introduction

Manchester FA, Lancashire FA, and West Riding County FA are all responsible for governing and developing football in Oldham. All are responsible for growing participation, promoting diversity and regulating the sport for everyone to enjoy. The majority of clubs in Oldham affiliate to Manchester FA, however, there are a number of teams which affiliate to either Lancashire FA or West Riding County FA based on their location. All teams playing in Oldham are considered within the assessment regardless of which County Football Association (CFA) they affiliate to.

This section of the report focuses on the supply and demand for grass football pitches, where formal demand is generally defined through five formats of play and five pitch types, linked to the age of teams and players. Please refer to the table below for more detail relating to this.

Table 2.1: Football grass pitch formats

Format/pitch type	Age range	Recommended pitch size (metres)
Adult	U17s+	100 x 64
Youth 11v11	U15s-U16s	91 x 55
Youth 11v11	U13s-U14s	82 x 50
Youth 9v9	U11s-U12s	73 x 46
Mini 7v7	U9s-U10s	55 x 37
Mini 5v5	U7s-U8s	37 x 27

Part 3 captures supply and demand for third generation artificial turf pitches (3G pitches), which is the preferred artificial surface type for football. There is a growing demand for the use of 3G pitches for competitive football fixtures, in addition to training needs, especially to accommodate mini and youth football.

Local Football Facility Plans (LFFPs)

To support in delivery of both the current and superseding FA National Game Strategy, the FA commissioned a nationwide consultancy project which has now been completed. As part of this, a LFFP has been produced for every local authority across England, with each plan being unique to its area as well as being diverse in its representation.

The LFFP is strategically aligned to the National Football Facilities Strategy (NFFS); a 10-year plan to change the landscape of football facilities in England. The NFFS represents a major funding commitment from the national funding partners (the FA, Premier League and Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS)) and is delivered through the Football Foundation (FF) to inform and direct an estimated one billion pounds of investment into football facilities over the next ten years.

Each LFFP builds upon PPOSS findings (where present and current) regarding the formal and affiliated game. The LFFP also incorporates consultation with groups outside of formal football, as well as under-represented communities. This includes those which may be key partners with regards to using football for behavioural change, plus groups which may be key drivers of FA priorities around participation in the likes of women and girls' football and disability football.

The LFFP for Oldham was produced in 2018. As it is a 'live' document it should be updated following the completion of this study as an up-to-date supply and demand assessment may present findings and recommendations that need to be incorporated for investment purposes. LFFPs identify key projects to be delivered and act as an investment portfolio for projects that require potential funding through the FF.

Notwithstanding the above, it is important to recognise that the LFFP is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential FF investment; it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. Consequently, it cannot be used in place of a PPOSS and is not an accepted evidence base for site change of use or disposal. An LFFP does, however, build on available/existing local evidence and strategic plans.

Consultation

In total there are 559 football teams across 73 clubs which originate from Oldham. Of these 376 teams utilise pitches for matches in Oldham during the 2023/24 season.

Of all clubs, 62 affiliate to Manchester FA consisting to 458 teams, eight affiliate to Lancashire FA consisting of 44 teams and the remaining three clubs and 57 teams affiliate to West Riding County FA.

To date, 22 clubs have responded to consultation requests with support from all three County FAs, which equates to a team response rate of 63%. The outstanding unresponsive clubs are smaller one/two team clubs which are now highly unlikely to respond to consultation requests. The following clubs were additionally consulted with face to face, either in person or via video meeting:

- Chadderton FC.
- Chadderton Park Sports Club.
- Oldham Athletic Community Trust.
- Heyside FC.
- Uppermill FC.
- Saddleworth 3Ds.
- Springhead FC.
- Santos.
- Diggle FC.

2.2: Supply

The audit identifies a total of 79 grass football pitches across 45 sites in Oldham. Of these, 69 pitches across 38 sites are identified as being available for community use at some level (although not necessarily used).

Table 2.2: Summary of grass pitches available for community use

Analysis area	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Central	5	1	-	1	-	**7**
East	5	6	-	1	1	**13**
North	12	2	5	1	-	**20**
South	8	4	1	-	-	**13**
West	5	7	4	-	-	**16**
Total	**35**	**20**	**10**	**3**	**1**	**69**

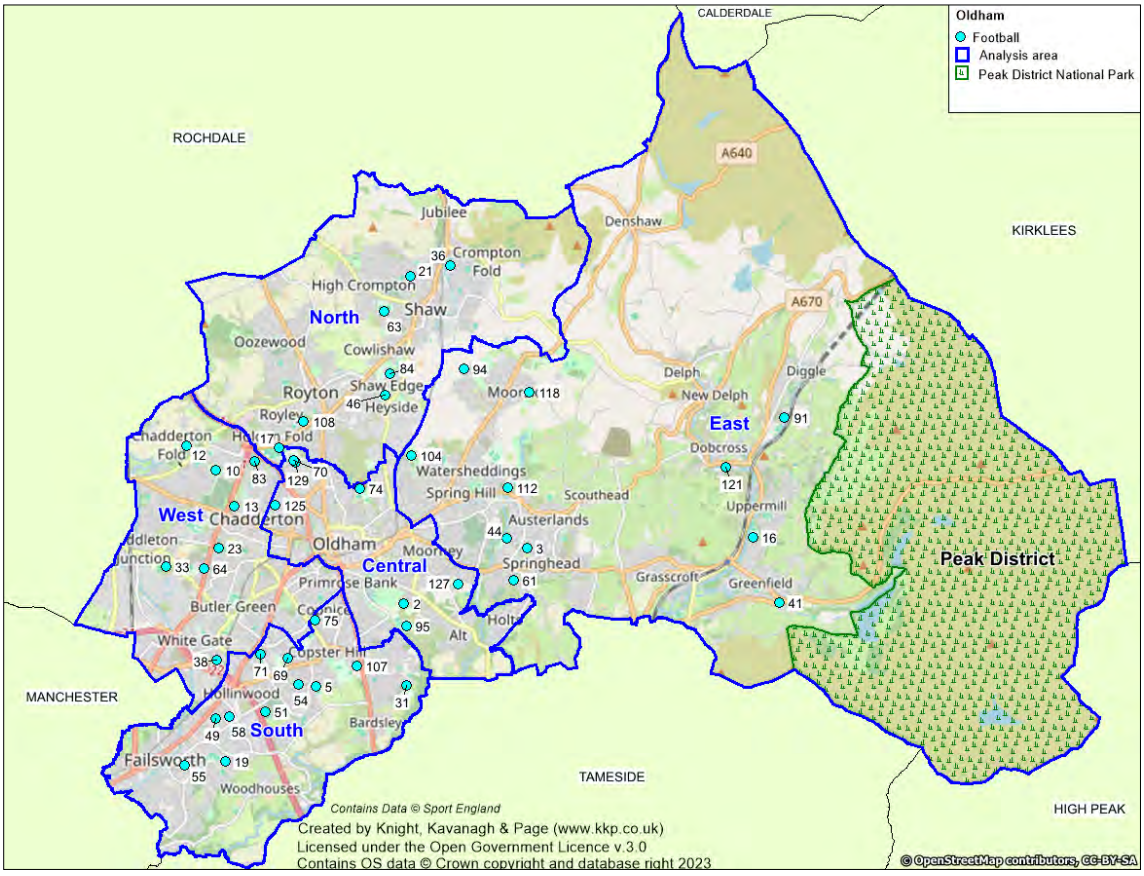
Most community available pitches can be found in the North Analysis Area with 20 pitches provided (30%). The Central Analysis Area provides the least number of community available pitches with just seven (10%).

There are more adult pitches (35) identified when compared to other pitch sizes, which suggests high demand for adult football. However, it should be noted that youth 11v11 demand is higher, despite there being less youth 11v11 pitches. This is common nationally, with many youth 11v11 teams playing on adult pitches, although this can be due to a lack of dedicated provision rather than through preference.

In accordance with the FA Youth Review, u17s and u18s can play on adult pitches. The FA's recommended pitch size for adult, youth and mini pitches can be seen in the table above.

Figure 2.1 identifies all grass football pitches currently servicing Oldham, regardless of community use. For a key to the map, see Table 2.13.

Figure 2.1: Map of sites with football pitch provision within Oldham



Disused site/provision

There are several sites which are disused in Oldham, with no formal sports pitches on the site, or, have previously accommodated football pitches but accommodate some other form of sports pitches. These are summarised in the table below.

Table 2.3: Disused playing field and outdoor sport sites in Oldham

Site name	APP ID	Postcode	Sport(s)	Comments
Chapel Road	1103388	OL8 4QY	Football	One 3G pitch which hasn't been used for six years due to bad surface quality and poor sports lighting.
Grange Synthetic Pitch	1010148	OL9 6AL	Hockey	One disused full size AGP which hasn't been used *circa* 2016
Merton Playing Fields	6007918	OL8 4JF	Football	Previously had one youth 11v11 football pitch marked. It should be noted that the site can accommodate more than one pitch as in previous years it accommodated four pitches.
Haggate	6007820	OL2 5EB	Football	Previously had one youth 11v11 football pitch marked. The pitch has been unused for *circa* five years and is currently overgrown, the Council suggests that if demand arises it could bring the pitch back into use.
Oldham Sports for All Centre	1003906	OL8 3PH	Hockey	One disused full size AGP which hasn't been used *circa* 2013
Tate Street	6007784	OL8 2DD	Football	Previously had two adult football pitch marked.

There are also three identified sites which have previously been known to mark sports pitches on playing field but had none recorded during the development of the PPOSS. These are detailed below.

- Lyndhurst Primary & Nursery School (OL8 4DJ) – previously had one youth 11v11 football pitch marked.
- St John's Church of England Primary School (M35 9PY) – previously had one youth 11v11 football pitch marked.
- St Marys CE Primary School (OL2 7PP) – previously had one mini 7v7 football pitch marked.

There are currently seven pitches across six sites (Merton Playing Field, Haggate, Tate Street, Lyndhurst Primary & Nursery School, St John's Church of England Primary School and St Marys CE Primary School) which are not currently marked out but have been in the past. As a breakdown this equates to two adult pitches, four youth 11v11 pitches and one mini 7v7 pitch. In theory there is potential for the pitches located a Haggate and Merton Playing Fields to be brought back into use to alleviate any identified overplay.

Potential changes of playing field provision

A planning application has recently been approved for the replacement of an existing grass training pitch known as Little Wembley (Oldham Athletic Football Club) with a new 11v11 3G pitch sports lighting which would be both football and rugby league compliant. The proposal includes ancillary single-story building to accommodate changing rooms, classroom/office, toilets and refreshments area.

Chadderton FC has recently been awarded FF funding for conversion of its existing grass stadia pitch to a 11v11 3G pitch, with works to associated car parking and sports lighting. Its working with different sporting organisations including Kabaddi for the use of the pitch.

There is a current planning application (FUL/352098/23) for a new 11v11 3G pitch located at Oasis Academy Leesbrook which is being funded by the Academy. This will replace an exciting youth 11v11 pitch which is currently unavailable for community use. The Academy plans to open the site for community use along with the 11v11 3G pitch.

Potential future provision

Springhead FC has an aspiration to convert unused grass land (adjacent to the football pitch) located at Ashfield Crescent Playing Field into a formal playing pitch. The Club is currently in discussions with the Council regarding this.

Northern Roots development

As part of the Urban Farm element of the Northern Roots project, two existing grass football pitches will be retained and enhanced in their existing location at Tip Road (off Honeywell Lane), whilst two other existing disused pitches (*circa* nine years) will be relocated to another part of the site as part of the wider development.

The relocated provision will improve the pitches, which in their current location have not been used for several years. This has been agreed as part of the hybrid planning permission for the site (FUL/348898/22). The relocation of the two pitches will be subject to a separate planning application.

Security of tenure

Tenure of sites in Oldham is generally secure i.e., through a long-term lease or a guarantee that pitches will continue to be provided over the next three years. This relates to most of the Council operated pitches, with such provision protected as part of an ongoing commitment to providing a leisure offering.

A common exception to providing security of tenure is found at schools and academies that state their own policies and are more likely to restrict levels of community use, as exemplified with five educational providers not currently allowing community use in Oldham of some of their pitches. The reasons for not allowing community use varies, although the most common justification is that the school want to protect their pitches for curricular and extra-curricular purposes due to existing quality issues. Other motives include staffing issues, health and safety issues and a perceived lack of profitability.

Sport England promotes the use of education providers sports facilities to be available for wider community use and provides guidance[4].

Most large clubs (such as Avro Football Club, Chadderton FC and Chadderton Park Sports Club) have freehold/long term leases for their respective sites. Springhead FC aspires to renew its lease agreement at Ashfield Crescent Playing Field and is in discussions with the Council regarding this. Most smaller clubs play on Council facilities which are classified as being secure.

[4] https://www.sportengland.org/funds-and-campaigns/use-our-school

Pitch quality

The quality of football pitches across Oldham has been assessed via a combination of site visits carried out in January 2024 (using non-technical assessments as determined by the FA), PitchPower reports (see below), and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating on a scale of good, standard and poor. For the full site assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2.

Pitch quality primarily influences the carrying capacity of a site; often pitches lack the drainage and maintenance necessary to sustain use. Pitches that receive little to no ongoing repair or post-season remedial work are likely to be assessed as poor, therefore limiting the number of games they can accommodate each week without it having a detrimental effect on quality.

Conversely, well maintained pitches are likely to be of a higher standard and capable of taking a number of matches without a significant reduction in surface quality.

The table below summarises the quality of community available pitches in Oldham. As seen, the majority of pitches are assessed as either standard or poor quality (90%), with only seven pitches assessed as good quality.

Table 2.4: Summary of pitch quality (community use pitches)

Pitch type	Good	Standard	Poor
Adult	3	7	25
Youth 11v11	2	6	12
Youth 9v9	2	3	5
Mini 7v7	-	-	3
Mini 5v5	-	-	1
Total	**7**	**16**	**46**

Most pitches in Oldham are assessed as poor quality, the main reasons relate more so to drainage issues, with unofficial use also exacerbating problems due to open access nature of the provision.

Churchill Playing Fields provides two poor quality adult pitches due to bad drainage evident during non-technical assessments and bad grass coverage which also aligns with the Pitch Power report.

Saddleworth 3Ds report investing funds into the two pitches located at Waterhead Academy (Counthill Road) to improve the quality, however, this has made little difference with drainage still being a significant problem.

Chadderton Park Sports Club state the pitches located at Cathedral Road, Crossley Playing Fields, Clayton Playing Field and Granby Street are all poor quality which also aligns with the non-technical assessments.

Oldham Athletic Football Club reports longer term aspirations to improve the grass pitches on Clayton Playing Fields including reorientation of pitches to create space for an additional 11v11 grass football pitch and upgrade the entire site to increase the carrying capacity of all grass pitches.

Pitch improvement

The FA has a Pitch Improvement Programme aimed at improving the standard of grass pitches across the Country. For provision included in the programme, clubs can utilise the services of the FF's PitchPower app to carry out a free on-site assessment of their pitches. This then provides the Grounds Management Association (GMA) with the detail needed to create a personalised, informative report to advise on how improvements can be made. Clubs then receive bespoke advice and support to help with any future actions, funding applications and equipment.

The web app is open to access by all providers, including clubs, schools and local authorities. Following a PitchPower report, organisations can work towards the recommended dedicated maintenance regime identified to improve the quality of their pitches. Applicants are required to submit a PitchPower assessment for each of their pitches as a condition of a grant funding application for FF grass pitch investment, such as the Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund (detailed later in this section).

PitchPower is less restricted by the seasonal window of in-season play than the non-technical assessments, instead being able to be undertaken within a 10-month period, with assessments completed and submitted within one of three windows: July - October, November – March or April – June.

As well as the completion of other supporting information such as detail of volunteer training and what maintenance equipment is available, the assessment requires the taking of images and a single soil sample at each assessment site. There are three assessment sites for adult and youth pitches at each goal area and the centre circle, whilst for mini pitches there are two sites at the centre circle and one goal area.

The PitchPower assessments use a new five step Performance Quality Standard (PQS) rating system developed by the GMA, with the FF and Sport England agreeing alignment with the capacity guidance within the existing PPS guidance. This alignment is shown in the table below.

Table 2.5: Agreed equivalent PPOSS quality rating for PQS ratings

PQS Rating	PPOSS Quality Rating
Poor	Poor
Basic	Standard
Good	Good
Advanced	Good
High	Good

In Oldham, 10 sites have received a PitchPower assessment. The findings of these in comparison to the PPOSS findings are shown in the table below.

Table 2.6: Summary of PitchPower findings compared to PPOSS quality ratings

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	PitchPower rating	PPOSS rating
3	Ashfield Crescent Playing Fields	Adult	Poor	Poor
5	Avro Football Club (Vestacare Stadium)	Youth 9v9	Basic	Good
16	Churchill Playing Fields	Adult	Basic	Standard
16	Churchill Playing Fields	Adult	Poor	Poor

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	PitchPower rating	PPOSS rating
16	Churchill Playing Fields	Adult	Poor	Poor
21	Crompton Cricket Club	Adult	Basic	Standard
30	Failsworth Sports Campus	Adult	Advanced	Good
30	Failsworth Sports Campus	Youth 11v11	Advanced	Good
30	Failsworth Sports Campus	Youth 11v11	Advanced	Good
69	Oasis Academy Oldham	Youth 11v11	Poor	Poor
84	Royton and Crompton E-Act Academy	Youth 9v9	Basic	Standard
107	The Hathershaw College	Adult	Basic	Poor
108	The Oldham Academy North	Youth 11v11	Basic	Poor
113	Waterhead Academy (Counthill Road)	Youth 11v11	Basic	Poor
113	Waterhead Academy (Counthill Road)	Youth 11v11	Basic	Poor

For reference the PPOSS quality scores will be the ones used in the pitch capacity analysis to follow. Most of the ratings from PitchPower assessments are aligned with those from the non-technical assessments.

Where there are discrepancies, it has been agreed with the FF and all CFAs to use the PPOSS quality scores as these are the most up to date point assessments, however, it should be noted these scores have still been cross referenced against PitchPower reports and club consultation. The pitches located at The Hathershaw College, The Oldham Academy North and Waterhead Academy (Counthill Road) have the biggest difference in quality rating, this is due to visible drainage issues that were identified during the non-technical assessments.

Football Foundation (FF) Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund [5]

With quality of grass pitches becoming one of the biggest influences on participation in football, the FA has made it a priority to work towards improving quality of grass pitches across the country. This has resulted in the creation of the Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund (GPMF). As part of this, grass pitches identified as having quality issues by the GMA via PitchPower assessment can apply to access funding to improve pitches to good quality or sustain them at good quality.

Once a PitchPower grass pitch assessment report has been produced for the site, eligible organisations can then apply for grant funding support through the FF Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund, a fund offering six-year tapered grants to help eligible clubs/organisations enhance or sustain the quality of their grass pitches. The fund is a key part of the FF's Grass Pitch Improvement Programme - an ambition to deliver 12,000 quality grass pitches by 2028. If a site is categorised as ‘poor’ or ‘basic’ then organisations can apply for funding to enhance pitch quality, whilst clubs with good or standard quality pitches can also apply for a lower level of funding to sustain quality.

All applicants must have the landowner’s permission (as a minimum) and have received a PitchPower Pitch Assessment Report, with the fund currently open to football clubs, leagues, education establishments, Parish & Town Councils, National League System Clubs (excluding the stadia pitch) at (Steps 1-6) and Women’s Football Pyramid (Tiers 1-4) and charities.

[5] Link to the Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund

Several clubs/sites in Oldham have been awarded funding from the FF to improve the quality of their pitches including, Failsworth Sports Campus and Avro Football Club (Vestacare Stadium).

Royton and Crompton E-Act Academy and Churchill Playing Fields are working towards a GPMF application.

Ancillary facilities

As with pitch quality, the quality of ancillary facilities servicing football sites across Oldham has been assessed on the basis of identifying good, standard and poor quality provision. To that end, ancillary facility ratings are primarily influenced by the type and quality of amenities which are available on a site, such as a clubhouse, changing rooms, car parking and boundary fencing. The following sites are assessed as providing poor quality changing facilities:

- Churchill Playing Fields.
- George Street Playing Fields.
- Heyside Playing Fields.
- Mabel Road.
- New Barn Playing Fields.
- Snipe Clough.

Saddleworth 3Ds report not being able to use the changing provision located at Waterhead Academy (Counthill Road) following recent vandalism meaning its currently closed for repairs.

Chadderton FC aspires to extend the current ancillary provision to add two additional changing rooms to cater for women's and girls' but also to prevent crossover of game times.

2.3: Demand

In total there are 559 football teams across 73 clubs which originate from Oldham. Of these 376 teams utilise pitches for matches in Oldham during the 2023/24 season. This is made up of 79 men's, six women's, 154 youth boys', 24 youth girls' and 113 mini teams.

The reason for the difference in numbers is due to many teams exporting demand outside of Borough to compete in central venue leagues which operate on the periphery of Oldham. This is detailed further below.

Table 2.7: Summary of competitive teams currently playing in Oldham

Analysis area	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Central	5	4	-	1	-	**10**
East	15	14	1	2	6	**38**
North	23	38	17	21	8	**107**
South	29	55	35	44	23	**186**
West	13	13	1	2	6	**35**
Total	**85**	**124**	**54**	**70**	**43**	**376**

The South Analysis Area has the highest number of teams with 186 (49%) whilst the Central Analysis Area has the fewest with only 10 teams (3%).

Central venue leagues

Manchester Grassroots Sunday Football League (MGSFL), Manchester Respect Junior Football League (MRJFL), North Manchester Girls League (NMGL), East Manchester Junior Football League (EMJFL) and the Manchester Youth Super League (MYSL) all operate on a central venue basis, with almost all matches taking place at one or more sites with 3G pitches.
The MGSFL runs central venue for ages up to and including U11, the MRJFL operates across three central venues for the same age groups. The MYSL operates across 11 sites up to and including U12, The NMGL operates across two sites for the same age group, whereas the EMJFL runs across 17 central venues. Across the five leagues, five of the sites used are within Oldham, with the remaining located within neighbouring authorities such as Manchester and Tameside.

Table 2.8: Summary of central venues used by junior leagues

League	Age groups	Venue	Local authority
MGSFL	U7, U8	Lathbury Road	Manchester
MRJFL	U8 & U9	University of Manchester (Armitage Sports Centre)	Manchester
MRJFL	U10 & U11	Manchester Metropolitan University (Platt Lane Sports Complex)	Manchester
MYSL	U7	Burnage Academy for Boys	Manchester
MYSL	U9 & U10	Hough End Leisure Centre	Manchester
MYSL	U9, U11 & U12	Manchester Communications Academy	Manchester
MYSL	U10	St Matthews RC High School	Manchester
MYSL	U11 & U12	East Manchester Academy	Manchester
EMJFL	U9, U10 & U12	Ten Acres Lane Sports Complex	Manchester
EMJFL	U9	Broadhurst Park Stadium	Manchester
EMJFL	U10 & U12	Wright Robinson Leisure	Manchester
EMJFL	U11	Hough End Leisure Centre	Manchester
EMJFL	U11	Dean Trust Ardwick Academy	Manchester
EMJFL	U11 & U12	MEA Central	Manchester
EMJFL	U11 & U12	Belle Vue Sports Village	Manchester
MGSFL	U7, U8	Co-op Academy Failsworth	Oldham
NMGL	U8, U9, U10 & U11	The Hathershaw College	Oldham
NMGL	U12	Co-op Academy Failsworth	Oldham
MYSL	U11	Co-Op Academy Failsworth	Oldham
EMJFL	U11	Richmond Academy	Oldham
EMJFL	U11	Greenhill Academy	Oldham
EMJFL	U11 & U12	Oasis Academy	Oldham
MYSL	U9	St Annes Academy	Rochdale
EMJFL	U11	Hopwood Hall	Rochdale
MRJFL	U7	Burnage Rugby Club	Stockport
MYSL	U10	South Manchester Sports Club	Stockport
MYSL	U11	The Mike Doyle Centre	Stockport
MYSL	U11	Life Leisure Brinnington Park	Stockport
EMJFL	U9 & U12	The Mike Doyle Centre	Stockport
EMJFL	U7 & U8	Tameside Stadium (Curzon Ashton Football Club)	Tameside
EMJFL	U7 & U8	Martinfields	Tameside
EMJFL	U9	Droylsden Academy	Tameside

League	Age groups	Venue	Local authority
EMJFL	U11	Hyde United Stadium	Tameside
EMJFL	U11 & U12	Astley Sports Village	Tameside
MYSL	U7, U8	Fives Trafford	Trafford

National League System demand

The National League System (NLS) is a series of interconnected leagues for adult men's football clubs in England. It begins below the Football League (from the National League at Step 1) and comprises of six steps, with various leagues at each level and more leagues lower down the system than at the top. The NLS has a hierarchical format with promotion and relegation between the steps, allowing even the smallest club the theoretical possibility of rising to the top of the system.

Clubs playing within the NLS must adhere to Stadium Accreditation[6] requirements set out by the FA. The higher the level of football being played the higher the requirements. Clubs cannot progress into the league above if the ground grading requirements do not meet the correct specifications. Stadium Accreditation assesses grounds from Grade 1 to 7, which aligns with Step 1 clubs down to Step 6 clubs making the transition from Regional Feeder League. Please refer to the FA website[7] for the full specifications for each.

Three teams from three clubs play within the NLS, as seen in the table below.

Table 2.9: Summary of teams playing within the NLS

Team	League	Level
Oldham Athletic FC	National League	Step 1
Avro FC	Northern Premier League – Division One West	Step 4
Chadderton FC	North West Counties League – Premier Division	Step 5

Women's National League System

Correspondingly there is a Women's National League System similar to the adult men's which provide structure to the women's game. This ranges from Tier 1 to Tier 6 with each Tier requiring differing ground grading requirements.

Although women's clubs still need to meet ground requirements set out by the FA these differ from the men's National League System. Ratings range from grade A to C each with differing minimum requirements. Tier 1 and 2 in the Women's National League System is akin to Tier 3 and 4 of the men's National League System, although not exactly the same. The system is also hierarchical format with promotion and relegation between the levels, allowing even the smallest club the theoretical possibility of rising to the top of the system.

There is currently no women's team in Oldham competing in the Women's National League System.

Walking football

[6] https://premierleaguestadiumfund.co.uk/stadium-accreditation-programme
[7] http://www.thefa.com/get-involved/player/ground-grading

Walking football[8] is an alternate version of football than the format which is governed by The Walking Football Association. The sport has picked up popularity in recent years and has a typical demographic of over 50s for men and over 40s for women. It provides a less physically demanding version of the usual game due to the rules not allowing for any contact or fast-paced movement thus providing a more inclusive game for participants.

Whist the game is governed by The Walking Football Association, and it provides competitive structures through national cup competitions, a lot of the activation work undertaken nationally for this activity type is promoted by professional football club community organisations or by leading community grassroots football clubs.

Oldham Active run walking football sessions every Monday at 11am located at Saddleworth Pool & Leisure Centre and every Friday at 11am located at Oldham Leisure Centre costing £5 per session. These sessions are open to players of all ages, abilities, men and women.

Furthermore, Oldham Athletic Supporters Foundation in partnership with Oldham Athletic Trust run an over 30s walking football 'Just Play' session every Thursday at 17:45 until 18:45 located at Broadfields Primary School.

Training

Access to affordable sports lit training facilities is a significant issue for most clubs in Oldham, particularly those with a large number of youth and mini teams. Of the 15 clubs that responded to consultation requests, all state a demand for additional training facilities with some of their teams struggling to train due to the club not being able to find a training location.

There are currently seven 11v11 3G pitches in Oldham and an additional 18 small sided 3G pitches. However, several clubs indicate that they train outside of Oldham to access suitable 3G pitches at the following sites:

- Damians RC Science College (Tameside).
- Mossley Hollins High School (Tameside).
- Broadhurst Park Stadium (Manchester).
- St Matthews School (Manchester).

In Oldham there are several clubs which have feeder teams. These teams consist of children under the age of seven who are not old enough to participate in formalised league matches and instead train on a regular basis. Clubs with feeder teams have aspirations to eventually progress to compete in competitive fixtures once they have reached the required age. Chadderton Park Sports Club, Uppermill FC, Saddleworth 3Ds and Springhead FC all have feeder teams which train on a regular basis. For more information regarding training see Part 3: Third Generation Turf (3G) Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs).

Unmet and latent demand

Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to pitches. It is usually expressed, for example, when a team is already training but is unable to access a match pitch, or when a league has a waiting list.

[8] https://thewfa.co.uk/who-plays-walking-football/
https://thewfa.co.uk/womens-walking-football/

Latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision.

Chadderton FC, Saddleworth 3Ds, Santos, Uppermill FC, Heyside FC and Springhead FC all identified latent demand and indicate they could field additional teams if they had access to better quality pitch provision for match and training demand, however, none of the clubs quantify a specific amount. No clubs report unmet demand for access to grass pitches.

Exported/imported demand

At youth and mini age groups, several leagues operate on a central venue basis which accounts for a high level of exported demand from Oldham. However, this also applies vice versa for teams based in neighbouring authorities such as Tameside and Manchester, with many playing at central venues inside of the Borough. Once progressed through the age groups, youth and mini teams at Oldham-based clubs will require pitches within Oldham (i.e., from U13 onwards).

According to affiliation data from 2023/24 season, there are 183 Oldham based teams playing matches at venues outside of the Borough. Of these, 112 are playing outside of Oldham to access central venues due to the league they play in.

The remaining teams which are exporting demand outside of the Borough do not play in central venue leagues. This is for a variety of reasons, however, Heyside FC report having to export most of its demand to Rochdale and Tameside due to a perceived lack of pitches for both matches and training in Oldham and a perceived unaffordability of pitch hire.

Table 2.10: Summary of exported match play demand playing in other local authorities

Club	Team	Venue	Local authority	Grass / 3G pitch
Diggle	1x u7	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Diggle	1x u8	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Diggle	1x u9	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Diggle	2x u10	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Diggle	1x u14	Great Academy Ashton	Tameside	3G
Diggle	1x Vets	Ashton Sixth Form College	Tameside	Grass
Springhead	1x u8	Richmond Street Playing Fields	Tameside	Grass
Springhead	1x u9	Richmond Street Playing Field	Tameside	Grass
Springhead	2x u10	Richmond Street Playing Field	Tameside	Grass
Springhead	1x u11	Richmond Street Playing Field	Tameside	Grass
Springhead	2x u12	Richmond Street Playing Field	Tameside	Grass
Springhead	2x u13	Richmond Street Playing Field	Tameside	Grass
Springhead	1x u15	Richmond Street Playing Field	Tameside	Grass

Club	Team	Venue	Local authority	Grass / 3G pitch
Springhead	2x u16	Richmond Street Playing Field	Tameside	Grass
Uppermill FC	2x u7	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Uppermill FC	3x u8	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Uppermill FC	3x u9	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Uppermill FC	1x u10	The Mike Doyle Centre	Stockport	3G
Uppermill FC	2x u11	Wright Robinson Leisure	Manchester	3G
Uppermill FC	1x u12	The Mike Doyle Centre	Stockport	3G
AFC Oldham 2005	2x Adult	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Athletico Failsworth FC	3 x Adult	The Hough End Centre	Manchester	Grass
Athletico Failsworth FC	1x u13	Wright Robinson Leisure	Manchester	3G
Avro FC	1x u12	Manchester Community Academy	Manchester	3G
Bee-Inspired Football Club FC	4x u13	Droylsden Academy	Tameside	3G
Cartshaft FC	1x Adult	Firgrove Playing Fields	Rochdale	Grass
Chadderton FC	2x u10	Heywood Sports Village	Rochdale	3G
Chadderton FC	1x u10	Heywood Sports Village	Rochdale	3G
Chadderton FC	2x u11	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Chadderton FC	1x u11	Wright Robinson Leisure	Manchester	3G
Chadderton FC	1x u12	Wright Robinson Sports Centre	Manchester	3G
Chadderton FC	2x u13	Heywood Sports Village	Rochdale	3G
Chadderton FC	3x u14	Wright Robinson Sports Centre	Manchester	3G
Chadderton FC	2x u15	Wright Robinson Sports Centre	Manchester	3G
Chadderton FC	1x u16	Wright Robinson Sports Centre	Manchester	3G
Chadderton FC	2x u7	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Chadderton FC	1x u8	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Chadderton Park Sports Club	1x u10	Broadhurst Park	Manchester	3G
Chadderton Park Sports Club	3x u10	Manchester Communication Academy	Manchester	3G
Chadderton Park Sports Club	3x u11	Wright Robinson Sports Centre	Manchester	3G
Chadderton Park Sports Club	1x u12	Heywood Sports Village	Rochdale	3G
Chadderton Park Sports Club	1x u13	Wright Robinson Sports Centre	Manchester	3G
Chadderton Park Sports Club	2x u9	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Clarksfield & Glodwick FC	1x u10	Wright Robinson Sports Centre	Manchester	3G
Clarksfield & Glodwick FC	1x u12	Wright Robinson Sports Centre	Manchester	3G
Clarksfield & Glodwick FC	1x u7	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Clarksfield & Glodwick FC	1x u8	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Clarksfield & Glodwick FC	1x u9	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G

Club	Team	Venue	Local authority	Grass / 3G pitch
Coppice United FC	1x Adult	Firgrove Playing Fields	Rochdale	Grass
Crompton FC	2x u12	St Annes Academy	Rochdale	3G
Crompton FC	2x u16	St Annes Academy	Rochdale	Grass
Failsworth Dynamos FC	1x u10	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Failsworth Dynamos FC	1x u11	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Failsworth Dynamos FC	1x u12	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Failsworth Dynamos FC	1x u8	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Failsworth Dynamos FC	1x u9	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Failsworth Dynamos FC	2x u11	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Failsworth Dynamos FC	2x u12	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Failsworth Dynamos FC	1x u14	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Failsworth Dynamos FC	1x u8	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Failsworth Dynamos FC	1x u9	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Fitton All-stars FC	1x u11	Manchester Communications Academy	Manchester	3G
Fitton All-stars FC	1x u18	Manchester Communications Acadmey	Manchester	3G
Glodwick Dynamos FC	1x u10	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Glodwick Dynamos FC	2x u11	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Glodwick Dynamos FC	1x u8	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Heyside FC	1x u10	Stockport Sports Village	Stockport	3G
Heyside FC	2x u10	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Heyside FC	1x u11	Wright Robinson Sports Centre	Manchester	3G
Heyside FC	3x u11	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Heyside FC	1x u12	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Heyside FC	2x u12	Wright Robinson Sports Centre	Manchester	3G
Heyside FC	3x u13	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Heyside FC	1x u13	Woodsend Park	Trafford	Grass
Heyside FC	2x u8	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Heyside FC	2x u9	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Hollinwood FC	2x u10	Manchester Communication Academy	Manchester	3G
Hollinwood FC	1x u10	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Hollinwood FC	1x u12	Matthew Moss High School	Rochdale	3G
Hollinwood FC	1x u13	Wright Robinson Sports Centre	Manchester	3G
Hollinwood FC	1x u16	Wright Robinson Sports Centre	Manchester	3G
Hollinwood FC	1x u8	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Hollinwood FC	1x u9	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Mancunian Unity Women FC	1x Adult	Cardinal Langley	Rochdale	3G
Oldham Ability Counts FC	1x Adult	Salford Sports Village	Manchester	3G
Oldham Ability Counts FC	1x u12	Salford Sports Village	Manchester	3G
Oldham Ability Counts FC	1x u16	Salford Sports Village	Manchester	3G

Club	Team	Venue	Local authority	Grass / 3G pitch
Oldham Community FC	1x u16	Ten Acres Lane Sports Complex	Manchester	3G
Real Failsworth FC	1x u17	Cardinal Langley	Rochdale	3G
Royton Park FC	1x Adult	Firgrove Playing Fields	Rochdale	Grass
Saddleworth 3Ds	5x u10	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Saddleworth 3Ds	2x u11	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Saddleworth 3Ds	2x u12	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Saddleworth 3Ds	3x u13	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Saddleworth 3Ds	2x u7	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Saddleworth 3Ds	3x u8	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Saddleworth 3Ds	4x u9	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Saddleworth 3Ds	1x Vets	Mossley Hollins High School	Manchester	3G
Saddleworth FC	1x u10	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Saddleworth FC	1x u11	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Saddleworth FC	2x u12	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Saddleworth FC	1x u7	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Shawside Juniors Football Club	1x u10	Heywood Sports Village	Rochdale	3G
Shawside Juniors Football Club	2x u11	Heywood Sports Village	Rochdale	3G
Shawside Juniors Football Club	2x u12	Heywood Sports Village	Rochdale	3G
Shawside Juniors Football Club	1x u13	Heywood Sports Village	Rochdale	3G
Shawside Juniors Football Club	1x u13	Hollingworth Academy	Rochdale	Grass
Shawside Juniors Football Club	1xu13	Woodsend Park	Trafford	Grass
Shawside Juniors Football Club	2x u14	Heywood Sports Village	Rochdale	3G
Shawside Juniors Football Club	1x u16	Hollingworth Academy	Rochdale	Grass
Shawside Juniors Football Club	3x u8	Heywood Sports Village	Rochdale	3G
Shawside Juniors Football Club	2x u8	Manchester Communication Academy	Manchester	3G
Shawside Juniors Football Club	2x u9	Heywood Sports Village	Rochdale	3G
Shawside Juniors Football Club	1x u9	Goals Soccer Centre	Manchester	3G
Sublime Athletic FC	1x u10	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Sublime Athletic FC	1x u12	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Sublime Athletic FC	1x u13	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G
Sublime Athletic FC	1x u8	The Tameside Stadium	Tameside	3G

It should also be noted that there is no known imported demand into Oldham aside from imported demand from teams which play within central venue leagues in the Borough, on an ad hoc basis, which have not been included in the overall demand on pitches within Oldham.

Future demand

Future demand can be defined in two ways, through participation increases and by using population forecasts.

The Strategy & Action Plan will contain housing growth scenarios that will estimate the additional demand for football arising from housing development within Oldham.

Participation growth

Of responding clubs, five report aspirations to increase the number of teams they provide within the next two seasons, totalling a predicted growth of 28 teams, as seen below.

Table 2.11: Potential team increases identified by clubs

Club	Analysis area	Gender	Number of teams	Pitch size	MES per week[9]
Chadderton Park Sports Club	West	Girls	3	Youth 9v9	1.5
Clarksfield & Glodwick FC	Central	Mixed	1	Mini 7v7	0.5
Clarksfield & Glodwick FC	Central	Mixed	1	Mini 5v5	0.5
Coppice Rangers FC	South	Men	1	Adult	0.5
Coppice Rangers FC	South	Women	1	Adult	0.5
Coppice Rangers FC	South	Boy	1	Youth 9v9	0.5
Coppice Rangers FC	South	Girls	1	Youth 9v9	0.5
Coppice Rangers FC	South	Mixed	1	Mini 7v7	0.5
Manor Athletic Vets FC	Central	Men	1	Adult	0.5
Manor Athletic Vets FC	Central	Boys	1	Youth 11v11	0.5
Manor Athletic Vets FC	Central	Mixed	1	Mini 7v7	0.5
Saddleworth FC	East	Men	1	Adult	0.5
Saddleworth FC	East	Boys	2	Youth 9v9	1
Saddleworth FC	East	Girls	3	Youth 9v9	1.5
Saddleworth FC	East	Mixed	4	Mini 7v7	2
Saddleworth FC	East	Mixed	5	Mini 5v5	2.5
-	-	**Totals**	**28**	-	**14**

The total future demand expressed by the clubs listed above amounts to 14 match equivalent sessions per week (as two teams equates to one match equivalent session playing on a home and away basis).

Broken down by pitch type, two match equivalent sessions per week are identified on adult pitches, 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week on youth 11v11 pitches, five match equivalent sessions per week on youth 9v9 pitches, 3.5 match equivalent sessions per week on mini 7v7 pitches and three match equivalent session per week on mini 5v5 pitches.

In light of FA aspirations to increase female participation in football through the establishment and foreseen future effect of the FA Wildcats programme and Inspiring Positive Change Strategy, it is likely that the growth in affiliated women's and girl teams may exceed that shown through team generation rates. Compared to the previous PPOSS (2017) and LFFP (2018) there has been an increase of three additional women's teams and one additional girls' team. Taking this into consideration combined with the aspirations highlighted through club consultation it can be said that women and girls'

[9] Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, 0.5 pitches can therefore be seen in the table where there is latent demand for one team.

participation is going to continue to grow. As such, it is imperative that sufficient facilities are suitable for female access, particularly in relation to toilets and appropriate changing provision.

To what extent is not currently quantifiable, however, this increase in female demand is likely to be captured within the club aspirational future demand figures expressed in Table 2.11.

Uppermill FC reports aspiration to increase the number women and girl's teams within its club, however, currently operates a big waiting list due to being at capacity. Therefore, it is unknown when it will increase women and girl's participation.

Population growth

Based on population projections to 2041 (the period to which this assessment projects), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) can estimate the likely additional demand for grass football pitches that will arise from any growth.

Using the current and future populations in each of the relevant age groups together with the current team numbers, team generation rates (TGRs) have been established to understand how much growth is required to establish one new team.

For reference total current population in 2024 of 242,171 will increase to 261,018 by 2041. The table below shows the number of new teams generated by the new population and the requisite match equivalent sessions.

Table 2.12: Authority wide team generation rates

Age group	Team generation rate	No. of new teams generated by the new population	No. of new teams generated by the new population - rounded figure	No. of match equivalent sessions per week[10]
Adult Men's (18-45)	1:510	**7.49**	7	3.5
Adult Women's (18-45)	1:5756	**0.66**	1	0.5
Youth Boys (12-17)	1:47	**12.09**	12	6
Youth Girls (12-17)	1:373	**1.48**	1	0.5
Youth Boys (10-11)	1:38	**7.24**	7	3.5
Youth Girls (10-11)	1:247	**1.15**	1	0.5
Mini Mixed (8-9)	1:61	**9.38**	9	4.5
Mini Mixed (6-7)	1:86	**6.50**	7	3.5

As the 45 teams expect to be generated (equating to 22.5 match equivalent sessions per week) are authority wide and not accredited to any analysis area, they will be added onto the overall supply and demand total for each pitch type within the 'Supply and Demand' section later.

Figures surrounding the extra demand generated for football training provision (hours per week on a 11v11 3G pitch with sports lighting) from future population will be referenced within Part 3: Third Generation Turf (3G) Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs).

Future demand summary

[10] Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, one team accounts to 0.5 match equivalent sessions on their relevant pitch type.

Future demand carried through to the supply and demand analysis is based on population growth, as future demand reported by clubs is considered more aspirational. However, the proceeding Strategy document will include a scenario to identify the impact it would have if the growth was realised.

Taking this into consideration, a total requirement for four match equivalent sessions per week is identified on adult pitches, six match equivalent sessions on youth 11v11 pitches, 3.5 match equivalent sessions on youth 9v9 pitches, four match equivalent sessions on mini 7v7 pitches and three match equivalent sessions on mini 5v5 pitches.

2.4: Capacity analysis

The capacity for 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 affect the playing experience and people's enjoyment. In extreme circumstances, it can result in the inability of a 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 it adversely affecting its quality.
Taking into consideration the guidelines on capacity, the following ratings were used in the Oldham:

Adult pitch quality	Matches per week	Youth pitch quality	Matches per week	Mini pitch quality	Matches per week
Good	3	Good	4	Good	6
Standard	2	Standard	2	Standard	4
Poor	1	Poor	1	Poor	2

Table 2.14 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
Overplayed	Play exceeds the level the site can sustain

Match equivalent sessions per week

Pitches have a limit of how much play they can accommodate over a certain period of time before their quality, and in turn their use, is adversely affected. As the main usage of pitches is likely to be for matches, it is appropriate for the comparable unit to be match equivalent sessions but may for example include training sessions and informal use.

Education sites

To account for curricular/extra-curricular use of education pitches it is likely that the usage at such sites will need to be adjusted. The only time this would not happen is when a school does not use its pitches at all, and the sole use is community use. The adjustment is typically dependent on the amount of play carried out, the number of pitches onsite and whether there is access to an onsite AGP.

In some cases, where there is no identified community use, there is a little capacity to accommodate further play. Internal usage often exceeds recommended pitch capacity, which is further exacerbated by basic maintenance regimes that may not extend beyond grass cuttings and line marking.

Table 2.14 shows community usage of available pitches. Where not overplayed because of community use, school sites are considered to have no spare capacity to accommodate further usage based on assumed curricular and extracurricular activity.
For school sites which are available for community use but that currently do not have any external hirers, one match equivalent session per week, per pitch has been accredited to indicate use for curricular and extracurricular activity as opposed to them being completely unused.

As mentioned earlier, all education sites are currently classified as having unsecure tenure as no schools through consultation report having a community use agreement in place.

Peak time

Spare capacity can only be considered as actual spare capacity if pitches are available at peak time. In Oldham, peak time for adult and youth 11v11 is Sunday morning, whereas it is Saturday morning for all remaining pitch types, as most teams across all age groups play at this time.

In the table overleaf, please note that, on occasions, spare capacity in the peak period is identified despite the pitch being played to capacity or overplayed or more spare capacity is identified in the peak period that what exists overall. This is because most of the use on those particular pitches occurs outside of the peak period, therefore the identified spare capacity at peak time should not be utilised over and above overall capacity unless quality improvements are made that increases overall capacity.

A pitch is only said to have ‘actual spare capacity’ if it is available for community use and available at the peak time for that format of play. Any pitch not meeting this criterion is therefore not considered to have additional capacity, although it may have capacity outside of peak time.

There may also 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 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.

Pitches that are of a poor quality are not deemed to have actual spare capacity due to the already low carrying capacity of the pitches. Any identified spare capacity should be retained in order to relieve the pitches of use, which in turn will aid the improvement of pitch quality. Furthermore, any pitches with unsecured tenure are not considered to have actual spare capacity as no further play should be encouraged on such sites given that future access cannot be guaranteed.

The table below identifies the way capacity balance is represented in Table 2.14

Table 2.13: Capacity balance examples

Spare capacity in peak period (examples)	Explanation of capacity balance
1	Highlighted in green with a number denotes that the pitches have actual spare capacity at peak time.
-	With a dash, this indicates that the pitch is unavailable in the peak period. If it were to be made available, actual spare capacity could exist.
0	Highlighted in orange with a zero, this indicates the pitch is played to capacity, either overall or during the peak period.
1	Not highlighted by with a value, this indicates that the pitch has spare capacity in the peak period; however, capacity has been discounted. This may be due to unsecure tenure and/or poor pitch quality.
1	Highlighted in red with a number denotes that the pitches are overplayed and have no spare capacity across the week. This includes at peak time, despite any availability at peak time which may exist.

Table 2.14: Football pitch capacity analysis

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Postcode	Type of tenure	Management	Pitch type	Pitch size	Available for community use?	Quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play (MES)	Site capacity (MES)	Overused (+), at capacity (/) or potential to accommodate additional play (-)	Spare capacity available in peak period (MES)	Comments
2	Alexandra Park Junior School	Central	OL8 2BE	**Unsecure**	Education	Youth	11v11	No	Standard	1	1	2	1	1	Pitch is unavailable for community use.
3	Ashfields Crescent Playing Fields	East	OL4 4NX	Secure	Local Authority	Adult	-	Yes	Poor	1	2	1	1	-	Pitch is overplayed by one match equivalent session.
5	Avro Football Club (Vestacare Stadium)	South	OL8 3JH	Secure	Sports Club	Youth	9v9	Yes	Good	1	4.5	4	0.5	-	Pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent session.
10	Cathedral Road	West	OL9 0BA	Secure	Local Authority	Adult	-	Yes	Poor	2	2.5	2	0.5	-	Pitches are overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent session.
12	Chadderton Fold	West	OL1 2RR	Secure	Sports Club	Youth	9v9[11]	Yes	Good	1	4	4	0	-	Pitch is played to capacity.
13	Chadderton Football Club	West	OL9 0JT	Secure	Local Authority	Adult	-	Yes	Good	1	2	3	1	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
16	Churchill Playing Fields	East	OL3 7AQ	Secure	Local Authority	Adult	-	Yes	Standard	1	2	2	0	-	Pitch is played to capacity.
16	Churchill Playing Fields	East	OL3 7AQ	Secure	Local Authority	Adult	-	Yes	Poor	2	3.5	2	1.5	-	Pitches are overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions.
17	Clayton Playing Fields	North	OL2 5DF	Secure	Local Authority	Adult	-	Yes	Standard	2	6.5	4	2.5	-	Pitches are overplayed by 2.5 match equivalent sessions.
17	Clayton Playing Fields	North	OL2 5DF	Secure	Local Authority	Adult	-	Yes	Poor	3	5	3	2	-	Pitches are overplayed by two match equivalent sessions.
17	Clayton Playing Fields	North	OL2 5DF	Secure	Local Authority	Youth	9v9	Yes	Poor	2	0.5	2	1.5	1.5	Spare capacity is discounted due to poor quality.
17	Clayton Playing Fields	North	OL2 5DF	Secure	Local Authority	Mini	7v7	Yes	Poor	1	1.5	2	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity is discounted due to poor quality.
19	Co-op Academy Failsworth	South	M35 9HA	**Unsecure**	Education	Adult	-	Yes	Good	1	0.5	3	2.5	2	Spare capacity is discounted due to unsecure tenure.
19	Co-op Academy Failsworth	South	M35 9HA	**Unsecure**	Education	Youth	11v11	Yes	Good	2	2	8	6	4	Spare capacity is discounted due to unsecure tenure.
21	Crompton Cricket Club	North	OL2 7SF	Secure	Sports Club	Adult	-	Yes	Standard	1	3.5	2	1.5	-	Pitch is overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions.
23	Crossley Playing Fields	West	OL9 9EE	Secure	Local Authority	Adult	-	Yes	Poor	2	2.5	2	0.5	-	Pitches are overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
23	Crossley Playing Fields	West	OL9 9EE	Secure	Local Authority	Youth	11v11	Yes	Poor	2	3.5	2	1.5	-	Pitches are overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent session.

[11] This pitch is overmarked by a mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitch.

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Postcode	Type of tenure	Management	Pitch type	Pitch size	Available for community use?	Quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play (MES)	Site capacity (MES)	Overused (+), at capacity (/) or potential to accommodate additional play (-)	Spare capacity available in peak period (MES)	Comments
23	Crossley Playing Fields	West	OL9 9EE	Secure	Local Authority	Youth	9v9	Yes	Poor	1	-	1	1	1	Spare capacity is discounted due to poor quality.
31	Fitton Hill Bulldogs Community Sports	South	OL8 2PZ	Secure	Local Authority	Adult	-	Yes	Standard	1	-	2	2	1	Pitch has actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session.
33	Foxdenton Park	West	OL9 9QS	Secure	Local Authority	Youth	11v11	Yes	Standard	1	2	2	0	-	Pitches are played to capacity.
33	Foxdenton Park	West	OL9 9QS	Secure	Local Authority	Youth	9v9	Yes	Standard	1	-	2	2	1	Pitch has actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session.
36	George Street Playing Fields	North	OL2 8HG	Secure	Local Authority	Adult	-	Yes	Poor	1	3	1	2	-	Pitch is overplayed by two match equivalent sessions.
36	George Street Playing Fields	North	OL2 8HG	Secure	Local Authority	Youth	11v11	Yes	Poor	1	1	1	0	-	Pitch is played to capacity.
36	George Street Playing Fields	North	OL2 8HG	Secure	Local Authority	Youth	9v9	Yes	Poor	1	1	1	0	-	Pitch is played to capacity.
38	Granby Street Playing Fields	West	OL9 8EG	Secure	Local Authority	Youth	11v11	Yes	Poor	2	-	2	2	2	Spare capacity is discounted due to poor quality.
41	Greenfield St Mary's CE Primary School	East	OL3 7DW	**Unsecure**	Education	Mini	7v7	No	Standard	1	1	4	3	2	Spare capacity is discounted due to unsecure tenure.
44	Hey with Zion School	East	OL4 3LQ	**Unsecure**	Education	Mini	7v7	No	Standard	1	1	4	3	2	Spare capacity is discounted due to unsecure tenure.
46	Heyside Playing Fields	North	OL2 6NT	Secure	Local Authority	Adult	-	Yes	Poor	2	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity is discounted due to poor quality.
49	Higher Failsworth Primary School	South	M35 9EA	**Unsecure**	Education	Youth	11v11	No	Standard	1	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity is discounted due to unsecure tenure.
51	Hollinwood Sports Club	South	OL8 3TB	Secure	Sports Club	Youth	11v11	Yes	Standard	1	1.5	2	0.5	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
54	Limeside Park	South	OL8 3SH	Secure	Local Authority	Adult	-	Yes	Standard	1	1.5	2	0.5	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
55	Lord Lane Field	South	M35 9GB	Secure	Local Authority	Adult	-	Yes	Poor	1	1	1	0	-	Pitch is played to capacity.
58	Mabel Road	South	M35 9EJ	Secure	Local Authority	Adult	-	Yes	Poor	1	-	1	1	1	Spare capacity is discounted due to poor quality.
61	Mills Recreation Ground	East	OL4 5DN	Secure	Local Authority	Youth	11v11	Yes	Poor	1	1	1	0	-	Pitch is played to capacity.
63	New Barn	North	OL2 7HA	Secure	Local Authority	Adult	-	Yes	Poor	3	1.5	3	1.5	1.5	Spare capacity is discounted due to poor quality.
64	Newman RC College	West	OL9 9QY	**Unsecure**	Education	Youth	11v11	Yes	Standard	1	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity is discounted due to unsecure tenure.

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Postcode	Type of tenure	Management	Pitch type	Pitch size	Available for community use?	Quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play (MES)	Site capacity (MES)	Overused (+), at capacity (/) or potential to accommodate additional play (-)	Spare capacity available in peak period (MES)	Comments
64	Newman RC College	West	OL9 9QY	**Unsecure**	Education	Youth	9v9	Yes	Standard	1	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity is discounted due to unsecure tenure.
69	Oasis Oldham Academy	South	OL8 4JZ	**Unsecure**	Education	Youth	11v11	Yes	Poor	1	8.5	1	7.5	-	Pitch is overplayed by 7.5 match equivalent sessions.
70	Oldham Athletic AFC (Boundary Park)	Central	OL1 2PA	Secure	Sports Club	Adult[12]	-	No	Good	1	1	3	2	0.5	Spare capacity is discounted due to being unavailable for community use.
71	Oldham Athletic AFC (Chapel Road Training Ground)	South	OL8 4QQ	Secure	Sports Club	Adult	-	No	Standard	2	1	4	3	1	Spare capacity is discounted due to being unavailable for community use.
74	Oldham Edge	Central	OL1 3EN	Secure	Local Authority	Adult	-	Yes	Standard	1	-	2	2	1	Spare capacity of one match equivalent session.
74	Oldham Edge	Central	OL1 3EN	Secure	Local Authority	Youth	11v11	Yes	Standard	1	-	2	2	1	Spare capacity of one match equivalent session.
75	Oldham Hulme Grammar School	South	OL8 4BX	**Unsecure**	Education	Adult	-	Yes	Poor	1	1	1	0	-	Pitches are played to capacity.
83	Rifle Range Pitch	West	OL1 2QP	Secure	Local Authority	Youth	11v11	Yes	Poor	1	-	1	1	1	Spare capacity is discounted due to poor quality.
84	Rotyon & Crompton E-Act Academy	North	OL2 6NT	**Unsecure**	Education	Youth	9v9	Yes	Standard	1	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity is discounted due to unsecure tenure.
91	Saddleworth School	East	OL3 5NU	**Unsecure**	Education	Youth	11v11	Yes	Standard	1	0.5	2	1.5	1	Spare capacity is discounted due to unsecure tenure.
94	Sholver Football Pitch	East	OL1 4PH	Secure	Local Authority	Mini	7v7	Yes	Poor	1	-	2	2	1	Spare capacity is discounted due to poor quality.
94	Sholver Football Pitch	East	OL1 4PH	Secure	Local Authority	Mini	5v5	Yes	Poor	1	-	2	2	1	Spare capacity is discounted due to poor quality.
95	Snipe Clough	Central	OL8 2AS	Secure	Local Authority	Adult	-	Yes	Poor	3	3	6	3	0.5	Spare capacity is discounted due to poor quality.
104	Stoneleigh Park	East	OL1 4LJ	Secure	Local Authority	Youth	11v11	Yes	Standard	1	0.5	2	1.5	1	Spare capacity of one match equivalent session.
107	The Hathershaw College	South	OL8 3EP	**Unsecure**	Education	Adult	-	Yes	Poor	2	6	2	4	-	Pitches are overplayed by four match equivalent session.
108	The Oldham Academy North	North	OL2 5BF	**Unsecure**	Education	Youth	11v11	Yes	Poor	1	5	1	4	-	Pitch is overplayed by four match equivalent session.

[12] It should be noted that this is now a hybrid pitch and caters for rugby usage.

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Postcode	Type of tenure	Management	Pitch type	Pitch size	Available for community use?	Quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play (MES)	Site capacity (MES)	Overused (+), at capacity (/) or potential to accommodate additional play (-)	Spare capacity available in peak period (MES)	Comments
108	The Oldham Academy North	North	OL2 5BF	**Unsecure**	Education	Youth	9v9	Yes	Poor	1	4.5	1	3.5	-	Pitch is overplayed by 3.5 match equivalent sessions.
113	Waterhead Academy (Counthill Road)	East	OL4 3NY	**Unsecure**	Education	Youth	11v11	Yes	Poor	2	2.5	2	0.5	-	Pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
118	Whitehall Lane Playing Fields	East	OL4 2LS	Secure	Local Authority	Youth	11v11	Yes	Poor	1	-	1	1	1	Spare capacity is discounted due to poor quality.
121	Woolpack	East	OL3 5AY	Secure	Local Authority	Adult	-	Yes	Poor	1	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity is discounted due to poor quality.
125	Berries Field Park	Central	OL9 6SW	Secure	Local Authority	Mini	7v7	Yes	Poor	1	-	2	2	1	Spare capacity is discounted due to poor quality.
127	Oasis Academy Leesbrook	Central	OL4 5JE	**Unsecure**	Education	Adult	-	No	Poor	1	1	1	0	-	Pitch is played to capacity.
127	Oasis Academy Leesbrook	Central	OL4 5JE	**Unsecure**	Education	Youth	11v11	No	Poor	2	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity is discounted due to unsecure tenure.
129	Oldham Athletic AFC (Training Pitch)	Central	OL1 2PA	Secure	Sports Club	Adult	-	No	Standard	1	4	2	2	-	Pitch is overplayed by two match equivalent sessions.

Actual spare capacity

The table below identifies actual spare capacity by site and pitch type across Oldham. It totals four match equivalent sessions per week and is identified across four pitches at three sites.

Table 2.15: Actual (peak time) spare capacity site by site

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (MES)
31	Fitton Hill Bulldogs Community Sports	South	Adult	1	1
33	Foxdenton Park	West	Youth 9v9	1	1
74	Oldham Edge	Central	Adult	1	1
74	Oldham Edge	Central	Youth 11v11	1	1
-	-	-	-	**Total**	**4**

Actual spare capacity is broken down by analysis area and pitch type in the table below. As seen, actual spare capacity is identified in the Central, South and West analysis areas. No actual spare capacity is identified in the East and North analysis areas.

Table 2.16: Actual spare capacity summary in match sessions per week

Analysis area	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5
Central	1	1	-	-	-
East	-	-	-	-	-
North	-	-	-	-	-
South	1	-	-	-	-
West	-	-	1	-	-
Oldham	**2**	**1**	**1**	**0**	**0**

Overplay

Overplay occurs when there is more play accommodated on a site than it can sustain (based on its quality rating), which can often be due to the low carrying capacity of pitches. In Oldham, 25 pitches across 13 sites are overplayed by a combined total of 35 match equivalent sessions per week.

Table 2.17: Overplay site-by-site

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (MES)
3	Ashfields Crescent Playing Fields	East	Adult	1	1
5	Avro Football Club (Vestacare Stadium)	South	Youth 9v9	1	0.5
10	Cathedral Road	West	Adult	2	0.5
16	Churchill Playing Fields	East	Adult	2	1.5
17	Clayton Playing Fields	North	Adult	2	2.5
17	Clayton Playing Fields	North	Adult	3	2
21	Crompton Cricket Club	North	Adult	1	1.5

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (MES)
23	Crossley Playing Fields	West	Adult	2	0.5
23	Crossley Playing Fields	West	Youth 11v11	2	1.5
36	George Street Playing Fields	North	Adult	1	2
69	Oasis Oldham Academy	South	Youth 11v11	1	7.5
107	The Hathershaw College	South	Adult	2	4
108	The Oldham Academy North	North	Youth 11v11	1	4
108	The Oldham Academy North	North	Youth 9v9	1	3.5
113	Waterhead Academy (Counthill Road)	East	Youth 11v11	2	0.5
129	Oldham Athletic AFC (Training Pitch)	Central	Adult	1	2
-	-	-	**Totals**	**25**	**35**

Pitches are generally overplayed due to high levels of demand coupled with poor pitch quality, as is the case with the pitch located at Oasis Oldham Academy where substantial overplay is identified (7.5 match sessions per week).

Overplay is broken down by analysis area and pitch type in the table below. As seen, most overplay is located on adult pitches and in the North Analysis Area.

Table 2.18: Overplay summary in match sessions per week

Analysis area	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5
Central	2	-	-	-	-
East	2.5	0.5	-	-	-
North	8	4	3.5	-	-
South	4	7.5	0.5	-	-
West	1	1.5	-	-	-
Oldham	**17.5**	**13.5**	**4**	**0**	**0**

2.5: Supply and demand analysis

Having considered supply and demand, the tables below identify current demand (i.e., spare capacity taking away overplay) in each of the analysis areas for each pitch type, based on match equivalent sessions. As stated earlier, future demand, at this stage, is calculated based on what has been identified through population growth.

Adult pitch capacity

Table 2.19: Supply and demand balance of adult pitches in match sessions per week

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total
Central	1	2	1
East	-	2.5	2.5
North	-	8	8
South	1	4	3
West	-	1	1
Oldham	**2**	**17.5**	**15.5**

The table above shows that there is currently a shortfall of 15.5 match equivalent session per week on adult pitches in Oldham. Shortfalls can be found in all analysis areas.

Table 2.20: Future supply and demand position for adult pitches in match sessions per week

Analysis area	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Oldham	**15.5**	4	**19.5**

After considering future demand, the shortfall increases to 19.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

Youth 11v11 pitch capacity

Table 2.21: Supply and demand balance of youth 11v11 pitches in match sessions per week

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total
Central	1	-	1
East	-	0.5	0.5
North	-	4	4
South	-	7.5	7.5
West	-	1.5	1.5
Oldham	**1**	**13.5**	**12.5**

The table above shows that there is currently a shortfall of 12.5 match equivalent session per week on youth 11v11 pitches in Oldham. Shortfalls, due to overplay, can be found in the East, North, South and West analysis areas. The Central Analysis Area has actual spare capacity.

Table 2.22: Future supply and demand position for youth 11v11 pitches in match sessions per week

Analysis area	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Oldham	**12.5**	6.5	**19**

After considering future demand, the shortfall increases to 19 match equivalent sessions per week.

Youth 9v9 pitch capacity

Table 2.23: Supply and demand balance of youth 9v9 pitches in match sessions per week

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total
Central	-	-	-
East	-	-	-
North	-	3.5	3.5
South	-	0.5	0.5
West	1	-	1
Oldham	**1**	**4**	**3**

There is currently a shortfall amounting to three match equivalent session per week on youth 9v9 pitches in Oldham. Overplay can be found in the North and South analysis areas. The West Analysis Area has actual spare capacity with the remaining analysis areas are played to capacity.

Table 2.24: Future supply and demand position for youth 9v9 pitches in match sessions per week

Analysis area	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Oldham	**3**	4	**7**

After considering future demand, the shortfall increases to 7 match equivalent sessions per week.

Mini 7v7 pitch capacity

Across Oldham, given no actual spare capacity or overplay been identified on mini 7v7 pitches, all analysis areas are played to capacity.

Table 2.25: Future supply and demand position for mini 7v7 pitches in match sessions per week

Analysis area	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Oldham	**0**	4.5	**4.5**

After considering future demand, a shortfall arises of 4.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

Mini 5v5 pitch capacity

Across Oldham, given no actual spare capacity or overplay been identified on mini 5v5 pitches, all analysis areas are played to capacity.

Table 2.26: Future supply and demand position for mini 5v5 pitches in match sessions per week

Analysis area	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Oldham	**0**	3.5	**3.5**

After considering future demand, a shortfall arises of 3.5 match equivalent sessions per week. It should be noted that the youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitch shortfalls are much lower due to a higher proportion of play on 3G inside and outside of Oldham.

2.6: Conclusion

Using the supply and demand tables above, the table below summarises the overall Oldham supply and demand balance by pitch type.

Table 2.27: Summary of supply and demand in match equivalent sessions per week

Pitch type	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Adult	2	17.5	15.5	4	19.5
Youth 11v11	1	13.5	12.5	6.5	19
Youth 9v9	1	4	3	4	7
Mini 7v7	-	-	0	4.5	4.5
Mini 5v5	-	-	0	3.5	3.5

There are currently shortfalls across adult, youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitch types in Oldham amounting to 31 match equivalent sessions per week. This is largely due to high levels of demand combined with poor pitch quality across these pitch types. It should also be noted that the high shortfall of adult pitches is due to youth team usage. The mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitch types are currently played to capacity. When considering future demand shortfall amounts to 53.5 match equivalent sessions per week with a shortfall identified across each pitch type.

Supply and demand summary

- **Current supply of football pitch provision is insufficient with shortfalls evident on adult, youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitch types.**
- **When considering future demand, these shortfalls will worsen to 53.5 match equivalent sessions. This is exacerbated due to a high level of demand and poor pitch quality.**

Supply summary

- The audit identifies a total of 79 grass football pitches across 45 sites in Oldham, however, 69 pitches across 38 sites are identified as being available for community use at some level for community use (although not necessarily used).
- Most community available pitches can be found in the North Analysis Area with 20 pitches provided (30%). The Central Analysis Area provided the least number of community available pitches with just seven (10%).
- There are six sites, which were not marked as formal pitches for the 2023/24 season.
- A planning application has recently been approved for the replacement of an existing grass training pitch known as Little Wembley (Oldham Athletic Football Club) with a new 11v11 3G pitch sports lighting which will be both football and rugby league compliant.
- Oldham Athletic Football Club has a longer term aspiration is to improve the grass pitches on Clayton Playing Fields including reorientation of pitches to create space for an additional 11v11 grass football pitch and upgrade the entire site to increase the carrying capacity of all grass pitches.
- Tenure of sites in Oldham is generally secure i.e., through a long-term lease or a guarantee that pitches will continue to be provided over the next three years.
- The quality of football pitches across Oldham has been assessed via a combination of site visits carried out in January 2024, PitchPower reports, and user consultation. Most pitches are assessed as either standard or poor quality (90%), with only seven pitches assessed as good quality.
- Six sites are considered to have poor quality ancillary facilities located at Churchill Playing Fields, George Street Playing Fields, Heyside Playing Fields, Mabel Road, New Barn Playing Fields and Snipe Clough.

Demand summary

- In total there are 559 teams across 73 clubs which originate from Oldham. Of these 376 teams utilise pitches for matches in Oldham during the 2023/24 season. This is made up of 79 men's, six women's, 154 youth boys', 24 youth girls' and 113 mini teams.
- The South Analysis Area has the highest number of teams with 186 (49%) whilst the Central Analysis Area has the fewest with only 10 teams (3%).
- Three teams from three clubs play within the football pyramid, Oldham Athletic FC (Step 1), Avro FC (Step 4) and Chadderton FC (Step 5).
- In Oldham, there is currently no women's team competing in the Women's National League System
- Of responding clubs, Chadderton FC, Saddleworth 3Ds, Santos, Uppermill FC, Heyside FC and Springhead FC all indicate they could field additional teams if they had access to better pitch provision, however, none of the clubs quantify a specific amount.
- According to affiliation data from 2023/24 season, there are 183 Oldham based teams playing matches at venues outside of the Borough. Of the 183 teams, 112 of these are playing outside of Oldham to access central venues due to the league they play in. Whilst the remaining teams which are exporting demand outside of the Borough do not play in central venue leagues.
- Of responding clubs, five report aspirations to increase the number of teams they provide, totalling a predicted growth of 28 teams.
- In Oldham, 25 pitches across 13 sites are overplayed by a combined total of 35 match equivalent sessions per week. Pitches are generally overplayed due to a high level of demand coupled with poor pitch quality.

PART 3: THIRD GENERATION TURF (3G) ARTIFICIAL GRASS PITCHES (AGPS)

3.1: Introduction

Competitive football can take place on 3G surfaces that have been FIFA or International Matchball Standard tested and approved by the FA for inclusion on the FA 3G Pitch Register. As such, in addition to training demand, a growing number of 3G pitches are now used for competitive match play, providing that the performance standard meets FIFA quality requirements.

World Rugby produced the 'Performance Specification for artificial grass pitches for rugby', more commonly known as 'Regulation 22', which provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for rugby union. The artificial surface standards identified in Regulation 22 allows matches to be played on surfaces that meet the required standard, meaning full contact activity, including tackling, rucking, mauling and lineouts, can take place.

Competitive rugby league play and contact practice is permitted to take place on 3G pitches which are deemed by the Rugby Football League (RFL) to meet its Performance Standard. RFL Stadium pitches require testing every two years and is slightly above the requirements for WR22/RFL Community pitches which requires retesting every three years. Community games can be played on RFL Community compliant pitches, but Tiers 1 & 2 must be played on a RFL Stadium compliant surface if they intend to play on 3G. Training demand can take place on both RFL Stadium and RFL Community pitches.

Many test contractors offer reduced rates through efficiency savings to carry out multiple performance tests in the same session, therefore providers seeking 3G pitch compliancy for a number of sports would be recommended to consider this opportunity. Other sports that are known to use 3G pitches for training and match play include American football and lacrosse.

EH's Artificial Grass Playing Surface Policy (June 2016) advises that 3G pitches should not be used for hockey matches or training and that they can only be used for lower level hockey (introductory level) as a last resort when no sand-based or water-based AGPs are available.

3.2: Supply

The recommended dimensions for an 11v11 size 3G artificial grass pitch for football are 100 x 64 metres. This extends to an area of 106 x 70 metres with the recommended minimum three metre run off area included. These dimensions allow for all age group match play to take place including adults, youth under 17/18 and younger age groups via overmarked pitches, e.g., the marking out of two 9v9 pitches for under 11/12s.

For rugby union, a 3G pitch must measure 106 x 68 metres for senior match play, with a 5-metre run off around the full perimeter. Smaller sized pitches can, however, be used to support training demand providing that they are installed to the correct specifications.

For rugby league, the preferred size of a 3G pitch must measure 116 x 68 metres, with a maximum size 3G pitch measuring 122 x 68 metres and for a minimum size 3G pitch it must measure 100 x 55 metres all with a standard three metre run off.

If a new pitch is proposed to measure below the recommended dimensions for the relevant sports, then justification must be provided for this in relation to the identified needs it will provide for and/or site constraints. In doing so, the impacts of a reduced pitch size in meeting current and future needs must be considered e.g., for football, a pitch not providing the recommended dimensions for adult match play and/or only being able to accommodate one rather than two overmarked 9v9 pitches. This justification needs to be included in the planning application details submitted to the relevant Local Planning Authority for the new pitch.

Unless otherwise stated and justified for an individual pitch, proposals in this PPOSS for any new 11v11 3G pitches are based on providing them to the recommended dimensions for the sports that they will be established to cater for.

Based on the above specification, there are seven 11v11 3G pitches in Oldham across seven sites. Six pitches are managed by education providers and one by a sports club with all seven pitches are sports lit and available for community use.

Table 3.1: 11v11 3G pitches in Oldham

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Sports lighting?	Size (metres)	FA registered?
5	Avro Football Club (Vestacare Stadium)	OL8 3JH	South	Yes	Yes	100 x 63	Yes – expires May 2025
19	Co-op Academy Failsworth	M35 9HA	South	Yes	Yes	100 x 64	Yes – expires May 2025
22	Crompton House C of E School	OL2 7HS	North	Yes	Yes	100 x 63	No – expired May 2024
66	North Chadderton School	OL9 0BN	West	Yes	Yes	100 x 64	No
69	Oasis Academy Oldham	OL8 4JZ	South	Yes	Yes	91 x 55	Yes – expires May 2025
84	Royton And Crompton E-Act Academy	OL2 6NT	North	Yes	Yes	95 x 57	Yes – expires May 2026
108	Oldham Academy North	OL2 5BF	North	Yes	Yes	94 x 57	Yes – expires May 2025

Three 11v11 3G pitches are located in the North Analysis Area, three located in the South Analysis Area and one 11v11 3G pitch is located in the West Analysis Area.

Table 3.2: Summary of the number of 11v11 3G pitches by analysis area

Analysis area	No. of 11v11 pitches available for community use
Central	-
East	-
North	3
South	3
West	1
Oldham	**7**

As well as the 11v11 3G pitches, there are also 18 smaller size outdoor 3G pitches across 14 sites in Oldham. Of these, 14 pitches are available to the community and are sports lit.

Table 3.3: Additional supply of 3G provision (outdoor)

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Sports lighting?	Size (metres)	FA Register?
8	Broadfield Primary School	OL8 1LH	Central	Yes	Yes	40 x 28	No
19	Co-op Academy Failsworth	M35 9HA	South	Yes	Yes	60 x 40	No – expired June 2023
19	Co-op Academy Failsworth	M35 9HA	South	Yes	Yes	60 x 40	No – expired June 2023
42	Greenhill Academy	OL4 1RR	Central	Yes	Yes	71 x 41	No
81	Propps Hall School	M35 0ND	South	Yes	Yes	30 x 20	No
89	Saddleworth Pool & Leisure Centre	OL3 6HG	East	Yes	Yes	30 x 22	No
89	Saddleworth Pool & Leisure Centre	OL3 6HG	East	Yes	Yes	30 x 22	No
89	Saddleworth Pool & Leisure Centre	OL3 6HG	East	Yes	Yes	46 x 30	No
91	Saddleworth School	OL3 5NU	East	Yes	Yes	69 x 42	No
100	St Martin's C Of E Primary School (Oldham)	OL8 2PY	South	No	Yes	41 x 34	No
107	The Hathershaw College	OL8 3EP	South	Yes	Yes	90 x 45	Yes – expires May 2026
109	The Radclyffe School	OL9 0LS	West	No	Yes	77 x 47	No
112	Waterhead Academy	OL4 3NY	East	Yes	Yes	60 x 40	No

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Sports lighting?	Size (metres)	FA Register?
112	Waterhead Academy	OL4 3NY	East	No	No	28 x 17	No
122	Yew Tree Community School	OL9 8LD	West	No	No	55 x 26	No
128	The Brian Clark C of E School	OL9 6EF	Central	Yes	Yes	54 x 36	No
130	Richmond Academy	OL9 6HY	Central	Yes	No	71 x 36	No
131	Honeywell Business & Community Centre	OL8 3BP	South	Yes	Yes	33 x 21	No

Most of the smaller size pitch provision is provided in the East Analysis Area (six of 18 – 33%), followed by the South Analysis Area providing five smaller size pitches (28%).

Whilst not large enough to accommodate adult match play, smaller size provision can be used to accommodate youth and mini matches, in addition to training demand, providing that they are on the FA 3G Pitch Register, of an adequate size and with appropriate run-off areas.

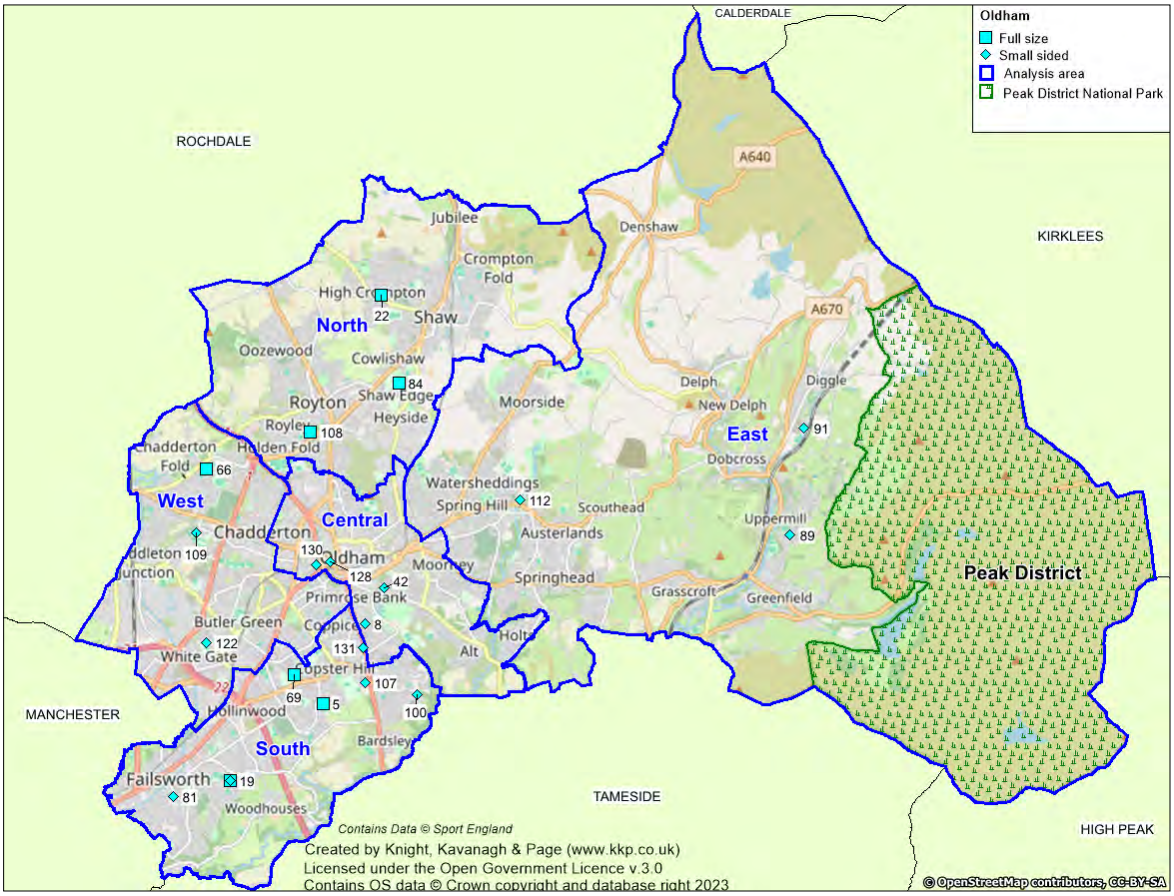
The pitch located at The Hathershaw College is the only small sided 3G pitch which is FA approved and therefore can accommodate match play, although a couple of unregistered pitches are used for matches.

Disused provision

The 11v11 3G pitch located at Chapel Road (previously managed by Oldham Community Leisure) hasn't been used for six years due to poor surface quality, sports lighting and ancillary provision, and is therefore disused. Oldham Sixth Form College has an aspiration to take over the management of the 3G pitch and ancillary facilities. It states plans to re develop/improve the site for curricular and community usage.

Figure 3.1 overleaf identifies the location of all 3G pitches in Oldham, regardless of size.

Figure 3.1: Location of 3G pitches in Oldham



Future supply

The recommended dimensions for an 11v11 size 3G artificial grass pitch for football are 100 x 64 metres. This extends to an area of 106 x 70 metres with the recommended minimum three metre run off area included. These dimensions allow for all age group match play to take place including adults, youth under 17/18 and younger age groups via overmarked pitches, e.g., the marking out of two 9v9 pitches for under 11/12s.

If a new pitch is proposed to measure below the recommended dimensions for the relevant sports, then justification must be provided for this in relation to the identified needs it will provide for and/or site constraints. In doing so, the impacts of a reduced pitch size in meeting current and future needs must be considered e.g., for football, a pitch not providing the recommended dimensions for adult match play and/or only being able to accommodate one rather than two overmarked 9v9 pitches. This justification needs to be included in the planning application details submitted to the relevant Local Planning Authority for the new pitch.

Unless otherwise stated and justified for an individual pitch, proposals in this PPOSS for any new 11v11 3G pitches are based on providing them to the recommended dimensions for the sports that they will be established to cater for.

Table 3.4: FA recommended 3G pitch sizes

Age group	Playing format	Recommended pitch dimensions (metres excluding run offs)	Recommended pitch dimensions (metres including run offs)
Mini-Soccer U7/U8	5v5	37x27	43x33
Mini-Soccer U9/U10	7v7	55x37	61x43
Youth U11/U12	9v9	73x46	79x52
Youth U13/U14	11v11	82x50	88x56
Youth U15/U16	11v11	91x55	97x61
Youth U17/U18	11v11	100x64	106x70
Over 18/Adult	11v11	100x64	106x70

A planning application has recently been approved for the replacement of an existing grass training pitch known as Little Wembley (Oldham Athletic Football Club) with a new 11v11 3G pitch with sports lighting which would be both football and rugby league compliant. The proposal includes an ancillary single-story building to accommodate changing rooms, classroom/office, toilets and refreshments area. It's planned to be used by Oldham Athletic FC, Oldham Athletic Community Trust, Oldham Athletic Girls and Women, Oldham Rugby League Football Club, Santos, educational providers and for community session (military veterans, blue light, women's recreation, walking football, Active through Football equivalents and Asian community sessions).

Chadderton FC has recently been awarded FF funding for conversion of its existing grass stadia pitch to a 11v11 3G pitch, with works to associated car parking and sports lighting. Its working with different sporting organisations including Kabaddi for the use of the pitch.

The Hathershaw College has recently been awarded funding from the Football Foundation to resurface and extend the size of its existing 3G pitch to an 11v11 size. Furthermore, there is an application for a new 11v11 3G pitch located at Oasis Academy Leesbrook which is planning to be funded by the Academy itself.

Springhead FC is in early discussions with FF regarding the possibility of developing a Stadia 3G pitch to replace their grass pitch located at Ashfield Crescent Playing Fields. It reports ambitions for the first team to progress through the National League Step System.

Future demand

FA 3G Pitch Register

In order for competitive matches to be played on 3G pitches, the pitch should be FIFA or IMS tested and approved and added to the FA 3G Pitch Register, which can be found at: https://footballfoundation.org.uk/3g-pitch-register.

Pitches undergo testing to become a FIFA Quality pitch or a FIFA Quality Pro pitch, with provision commonly constructed, installed and tested in situ to achieve either accreditation. The differences between the accreditations are that FIFA Quality pitches are designed to accommodate substantial levels of regular usage, whereas FIFA Quality Pro pitches are more for high level performance, with usage levels therefore more limited to protect the standard. Generally, FIFA Quality pitches can be typically used for 60-85 hours per week, whereas FIFA Quality Pro pitches are able to accommodate 20-30 hours.

To remain on the Register, pitches must be re-assessed every three years to ensure that quality has not deteriorated beyond acceptable levels, although this is required annually for clubs using 3G pitches within the National League System (Step 1-6), such as Avro Football Club (Vestacare Stadium).

In Oldham, the 3G pitches located at Avro Football Club (Vestacare Stadium), Co-op Academy Failsworth, Oasis Academy Oldham, Oldham Academy North, Royton and Crompton E-Act Academy and The Hathershaw College are all on the FA 3G Pitch Register.

The 11v11 3G pitch located at Crompton House C of E School and the two small sided 3G pitches located at Co-op Academy Failsworth that were previously on the Register have now expired due to quality.

It should be noted that the 3G pitch located at Avro Football Club (Vestacare Stadium) is a NLS pitch and needs retesting annually, so will expire every season.

World Rugby (WR) compliant pitches

To enable 3G pitches to accommodate competitive rugby union matches, WR has developed the Rugby Turf Performance Specification. This is to ensure that the surfaces can replicate the playing qualities of good quality grass pitches, provide a playing environment that will not increase the risk of injury and are of an adequate durability.

The specification included a rigorous test programme that assesses ball/surface interaction and player/surface interaction and has been modified to align the standard with that of FIFA. Any 3G pitch used for any form of competitive rugby must comply with this specification and must be tested every two years to retain compliance.

In Oldham, there are currently no 3G pitches which are WR compliant.

Funding has recently been awarded to resurface and expand the existing 3G pitch located at The Hathershaw College to create a 11v11 3G pitch which will also be WR Reg 22 compliant. WR Reg 22 compliance will be driven by community engagement and long-term commitment from clubs.

RFL compliant pitches

3G pitches for rugby league are classed as either RFL Community or RFL Stadium. RFL Community is suitable for Tiers 4-6 and training. If used for competitive games they should be tested every two years, and if it only used training only then every three years. RFL Stadium pitches are considered suitable for match play use in Tiers 1-3 and should be retested annually if used for competitive games. More information can be found in Section five here Materials Science Consultants Ltd.

The WR22 test complies with the RFL Community element of this, but the frequency of retest is different should the 3G be used for competitive rugby league. The RFL Stadium criteria requires an additional test.

As mentioned previously, a planning application has recently been approved for the replacement of an existing grass training pitch known as Little Wembley (Oldham Athletic Football Club) with a new 11v11 3G pitch with sports lighting which would be both football and rugby league compliant.

Management

Six of the seven 11v11 3G pitches are managed by education providers with only the 11v11 3G pitch located at Avro Football Club (Vestacare Stadium) managed by the Sports Club.

The smaller size 3G pitches are managed by either commercial management (four or 22%) or education providers (14 or 78%).

Availability

The following table summarises the availability within the peak period of 11v11 3G pitches in Oldham. Sport England Facilities Planning Model (FPM) applies a generic overall peak period for AGPs based the following hours for AGPs 34 hours a week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00).

The availability at each venue providing a 11v11 3G pitch is summarised in the Table 3.5.

Table 3.5: Summary of 11v11 3G pitch availability

Site ID	Site	Availability in the peak period (hours)	Availability
5	Avro Football Club (Vestacare Stadium)	34	Available to the community from 8:00 until 22:00 on weekdays and from 08:00 until 20:00 at weekends.
19	Co-op Academy Failsworth	33.5	Available to the community from 17:00 until 21:00 on weekdays, 07:30 until 16:30 on Saturdays and from 08:00 until 17:00 on Sundays.
22	Crompton House C of E School	29	Available to the community from 18:00 until 21:00 on weekdays and from 09:00 until 18:00 at weekends.
66	North Chadderton School	13	Available to the community from 18:00 until 21:00 on Monday – Thursday and 18:00 until 19:00 on Fridays. Unavailable on weekends.
69	Oasis Academy Oldham	33	Available to the community from 17:00 until 21:00 on weekdays, 08:00 until 16:00 on Saturdays and from 08:00 until 18:00 on Sundays.
84	Royton And Crompton E-Act Academy	29	Available to the community from 18:00 until 21:45 weekdays and from 09:00 until 18:00 at weekends.
108	Oldham Academy North	30.5	Available to the community from 17:30 until 21:00 on weekdays, 09:00 until 18:00 on Saturdays and from 10:00 until 18:00 on Sundays.

Quality

Depending on use, it is considered that the carpet of an 3G pitch usually lasts for approximately ten years', and it is the age of the surface, combined with maintenance levels, which most commonly affects quality. It is therefore recommended that pitch replacement funds be put into place by providers to enable long-term sustainability, ongoing repairs and future refurbishments beyond this period.

In Oldham, the 3G pitches located at both Royton and Crompton E-Act Academy and Oldham Academy North are assessed as good quality. The 11v11 3G pitch located at North Chadderton School is assessed as poor quality.

Table 3.6: Summary of 11v11 3G pitch quality

Site ID	Site	Year installed/resurfaced	Quality
5	Avro Football Club (Vestacare Stadium)	2017	Standard
19	Co-op Academy Failsworth	2016	Standard
22	Crompton House C of E School	2016	Standard
66	North Chadderton School	2014	Poor
69	Oasis Academy Oldham	2012	Standard
84	Royton And Crompton E-Act Academy	2018	Good
108	Oldham Academy North	2015	Good

It should be noted that although the 3G pitch located at Crompton House C of E School is assessed as standard quality, during consultation with Heyside FC it reported evidence of rips in the surface. Furthermore, the 11v11 3G pitch located at Oasis Academy Oldham also assessed as standard quality did show evidence of wear and tear during consultation with the school.

In addition to above, there are four good quality, 10 standard quality and four poor quality smaller size 3G pitches. The poor quality pitches are located at Broadfield Primary School, Honeywell Business & Community Centre and Waterhead Academy.

Table 3.7: Summary of smaller size 3G pitch quality

Site ID	Site	Year installed/resurfaced	Quality
8	Broadfield Primary School	2015	Poor
19	Co-op Academy Failsworth	2016	Good
19	Co-op Academy Failsworth	2016	Good
42	Greenhill Academy	2018	Standard
81	Propps Hall School	2015	Standard
89	Saddleworth Pool & Leisure Centre	2015	Standard
89	Saddleworth Pool & Leisure Centre	2015	Standard
89	Saddleworth Pool & Leisure Centre	2015	Standard
91	Saddleworth School	2020	Good
100	St Martin's C Of E Primary School (Oldham)	2015	Standard
107	The Hathershaw College	2011	Standard
109	The Radclyffe School	2009	Standard
112	Waterhead Academy	2012	Poor
112	Waterhead Academy	2012	Poor
122	Yew Tree Community School	2018	Standard
128	The Brian Clark C of E School	2023	Good
130	Richmond Academy	2018	Standard
131	Honeywell Business & Community Centre	Unknown	Poor

As previously mentioned, the pitch located at The Hathershaw College needs replacement due to its age and quality issues. The College has recently been awarded funding from the Football Foundation to resurface and extend the size of the existing 3G pitch to 11v11 size. It is the only small sided 3G which is on the FA 3G Pitch Register for match play, however two pitches are used despite no registration.

Both The Hathershaw College and Co-op Academy Failsworth state having pitch replacement funds in place for their respective 3G pitches. Additionally, Royton & Crompton E-Act Academy state there is a central pot of money between 26 academies that can be delegated to a school that needs to resurface its 3G pitch.

Oldham Athletic Community Trust state the small sided 3G located at Broadfield Primary school is coming to the end of its life span and needs resurfacing.

Chadderton Park Sports Club, Uppermill FC, Springhead FC and Santos report issues with the lack of facilities in Oldham, and particularly 3G pitches for training.

Ancillary facilities

All 3G provision in Oldham is accompanied by ancillary facilities that are considered adequate with no issues raised during consultation or via site assessments.

3.3: Demand

The 11v11 3G pitches currently available for community use in Oldham are all reported to be operating at or close to capacity at peak times, especially during winter months when grass pitches cannot be used for training or recreational demand (due to a lack of sports lighting).

Currently, it is considered that all the community-based activity on 3G pitches is football related.

The table below summarises usage levels of the 11v11 3G provision in Oldham based on booking sheets supplied by the operators. This compared against availability at peak time, using Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM). This applies an overall peak period for AGPs of 34 hours per week; split between 18 hours midweek and 16 hours at the weekend (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00).

Table 3.8: Current usage of 11v11 3G pitches across Oldham in peak time

Site ID	Site name	Club user	Midweek availability (hours)	Midweek usage (hours)	Weekend availability (hours)	Weekend usage (hours)
5	Avro Football Club (Vestacare Stadium)	Avro FC / Oldham Athletic FC / Royton Town / Manchester Unity Women FC / Oldham Athletic Women and Girls FC / Bee-Inspired Football Club	18	18	16	16
19	Co-op Academy Failsworth	Chadderton Park Sports Club / Failsworth Dynamos FC / Failsworth Villa FC / Failsworth West Junior FC / Failsworth Wolves JFC / Fitton All Stars FC / Glodwick Dynamos FC / Hollinwood FC / Manchester Devils JFC / Mighty Dragons JFC / Oldham Town Junior FC / Saddleworth FC / Sublime Athletic FC	18	17[13]	15.5	15
22	Crompton House C of E School	Heyside FC / Oldham Ability Counts FC / Shawside Junior Football Club / Santos	13	13	16	11
66	North Chadderton School	Chadderton Park Sports Club / Santos	13	12	0	0
69	Oasis Academy Oldham	Chadderton Park Sports Club / Hollinwood FC / Oldham Community FC / Sublime Athletic FC / Clarksfield & Glodwick FC	18	16	15	12
84	Royton And Crompton E-Act Academy	Royton Town / Shawside Juniors Football Club / Heyside FC	13	11	16	16
108	Oldham Academy North	Santos / Chadderton FC / Shawside Juniors Football Club	15.5	14	15	13
-		**Totals**	**108.5**	**101**	**93.5**	**83**

As seen, all midweek and weekend availability is currently at capacity or close to capacity, in Oldham. This data should be used to establish a baseline that can be reviewed annually to see if the position changes, taking into account any new pitches that are established and the impact these have.

[13] Whilst these hours represent the hours that the pitch is currently in use, the pitch can be booked in quarters or halves and therefore sections are still available to be hired during these times, mainly on Monday and Tuesday evenings.

3.4: Supply and demand analysis

Football

The FA considers high quality 3G pitches as an essential tool in promoting coach and player development, with the pitches considered to be great assets on account of being able to support intensive use and use during inclement weather. Primarily, such facilities have been installed for social use and training; however, they are increasingly being used for competition, which the FA wholly supports.

Training demand

To quantify the 3G shortfall for football, the FA has established a training model, which suggests that one 11v11 3G pitch can accommodate 38 affiliated teams (with capacity built in for other forms of demand). It also has an aspiration for all teams to train once per week on a 3G pitch, although it is recognised that nationally some activity may need to be retained on sand-based pitches to ensure the sustainability of them.
For the model, in addition to 11v11 pitches being included, some smaller size pitches can also be incorporated as nationally many are suitable for accommodating training demand, especially larger ones.

The contribution each pitch makes towards the modelling is summarised in the table below. This then informs the proceeding modelling tables. Any pitch too small to accommodate training demand are discounted, as well as any pitches that are unavailable for community use.

Table 3.9: Contribution of 3G pitches in meeting training requirements

Site name	Analysis area	Size (metres)	Comments	Full size adult pitch equivalents
11v11 size				
Avro Football Club (Vestacare Stadium)	South	100 x 63	11v11 3G pitch fully available to the community	1
Co-op Academy Failsworth	South	100 x 64	11v11 3G pitch fully available to the community	1
Crompton House C of E School	North	100 x 63	11v11 3G pitch fully available to the community	1
North Chadderton School	West	100 x 64	11v11 3G pitch fully available to the community	1
Oasis Academy Oldham	South	91 x 55	11v11 3G pitch fully available to the community	1
Royton And Crompton E-Act Academy	North	95 x 57	11v11 3G pitch fully available to the community	1
Oldham Academy North	North	94 x 57	11v11 3G pitch fully available to the community	1

Site name	Analysis area	Size (metres)	Comments	Full size adult pitch equivalents
Smaller sized				
Broadfield Primary School	Central	40 x 28	Large enough to accommodate training demand	0.25
Co-op Academy Failsworth	South	60 x 40	Large enough to accommodate training demand	0.5
Co-op Academy Failsworth	South	60 x 40	Large enough to accommodate training demand	0.5
Propps Hall School	South	30 x 20	Too small to accommodate training demand	-
Saddleworth Pool & Leisure Centre	East	30 x 22	Too small to accommodate training demand	-
Saddleworth Pool & Leisure Centre	East	30 x 22	Too small to accommodate training demand	-
Saddleworth Pool & Leisure Centre	East	46 x 30	Large enough to accommodate training demand	0.25
Saddleworth School	East	69 x 42	Large enough to accommodate training demand	0.5
St Martin's C Of E Primary School (Oldham)	South	41 x 34	Unavailable for community use.	-
Richmond Academy	Central	75 x 37	Large enough to accommodate training demand	0.5
Greenhill Academy	Central	69 x 41	Large enough to accommodate training demand	0.5
Honeywell Business & Community Centre	South	33 x 21	Too small to accommodate training demand	-
The Hathershaw College	South	90 x 45	Large enough to accommodate training demand	0.75
The Radclyffe School	West	77 x 47	Unavailable for community use.	-
Waterhead Academy	East	60 x 40	Large enough to accommodate training demand	0.5
Waterhead Academy	East	28 x 17	Unavailable for community use.	-
Yew Tree Community School	West	55 x 26	Unavailable for community use.	-
The Brian Clark C of E School	Central	54 x 36	Large enough to accommodate training demand	0.25
-	-	-	**Total**	**11.5**

No clubs currently report using any of the pitches for training that have been discounted in the table above, further evidencing their unsuitability for this purpose.

Although there are 183 teams which export match demand outside of Oldham there is still a need for these teams to train locally. Therefore, given there is a total of 559 teams which originate in Oldham, there is a theoretical need for 15 11v11 3G pitches (rounded up from 14.7).

As there are currently 11.5 pitch equivalents provided, this means that there is a potential need for 3.5 additional 11v11 3G pitches to meet all current training demand.

Table 3.10: Current demand for 11v11 3G pitches in Oldham (based on 38 teams per pitch)

Current number of teams	3G requirement	Current number of 11v11 size 3G pitch equivalents	Current shortfall
559	14.7 - 15	11.5	3.5

When considering future demand for an additional 41 teams (based on growth identified in Part 2 of this report), there is potential demand for 16 full size pitches overall (rounded up from 15.79), which means a theoretical future shortfall of 4.5 pitches.

Table 3.11: Future demand for 11v11 3G pitches in Oldham (based on 38 teams per pitch)

Future number of teams	3G requirement	Current number of 11v11 size 3G pitch equivalents	Future shortfall
600	15.8 - 16	11.5	4.5

Alternatively, the table below considers the number of 3G pitches required if every team was to remain training within the respective analysis area that they play in. This not only identifies where the potential needs exist across Oldham, but it can also be used to guide which areas should be targeted for new provision. The figures also includes exported competitive demand as these teams would prefer to train within their own local authority and analysis area.

Table 3.12: Current demand for 11v11 3G pitches by analysis area (based on 38 teams per pitch)

Analysis area	Current number of teams	Current requirement	Current number of 11v11 pitch equivalents	Current shortfall
Central	7	0.18 – 0	1.5	1.5
East	91	2.39 – 2	1.25	0.75
North	152	4	3	1
South	250	6.58 – 7	4.75	2.25
West	59	1.55 - 2	1	1
Oldham	**559**	**14.7 - 15**	**11.5**	**3.5**

This shows an overall shortfall of 3.5 11v11 3G pitch equivalents, aligning to the shortfall across Oldham as a whole. It also identifies that there are specific shortfalls in all analysis areas, each needing at least one additional pitch, apart from the Central Analysis Area.

Match play demand

Improving grass pitch quality is one way to increase the capacity at sites but given the cost of doing such work and the continued maintenance required (and associated costs), alternatives need to be considered that can offer a more sustainable model for the future of football. The alternative or supplement to grass pitches is the use of 3G pitches for competitive matches, providing that the pitch is FA approved, sports lit and available for community use during the peak period.

In Oldham, currently 186 affiliated teams across 35 clubs are registered as using 3G pitches for regular match play.

As the number of 3G pitches increases in line with meeting training demand shortfalls, so should the number of teams utilising the provision for matches, which in turn should relieve grass pitches of use. As such, whilst the number of 3G pitches needed for matches will never outweigh the number of 3G pitches needed for training (as they would not be sustainable without midweek usage), maximising the pitches that are in place and that are proposed should be fully supported.

Rugby union

Given the inclement weather often experienced throughout the winter months of the rugby union season, more clubs are becoming increasingly receptive towards training on artificial pitches. Clubs traditionally train on match pitches where floodlights are in place or one pitch designated for all training in particular, unless there is a separate floodlit grass training area. It often results in deterioration in pitch quality coupled with decreasing maintenance budgets.

The recent RFU strategy on investment in 3G pitches both at club and community based sites is indicative of the growing acceptance of 3G pitches amongst clubs nationally. Nationally clubs identify the use of 3G pitches for training as a method of protecting the match pitches and providing a high quality surface for full contact practice. Competitive play continues to take place on grass pitches for the most part, with ad hoc use of 3G pitches for fixtures in the case of unsuitable pitches due to waterlogging or frost.

As mentioned previously, there are currently no World Rugby compliant 3G pitches within Oldham with the nearest pitches located at Audenshaw High School (Tameside) and Burnage Rugby Football Club (Stockport).

Funding has recently been awarded for the resurface and expansion of the existing 3G pitch located at The Hathershaw College to create a 11v11 3G pitch which will also be WR Reg 22 compliant. WR Reg 22 compliance will be driven by community engagement and long-term commitment from clubs.

Rugby league

Saddleworth Rangers ARLFC reports to be using multiple venues to access 3G pitch provision for training such as Saddleworth School, Saddleworth Leisure Centre, The Hathershaw College and Greenhill Academy. It should be noted that non-contact training activity takes place at these sites due to the pitches not being certified for contact rugby league.

Other sports

Currently, no other sports clubs/users are presently identified as accessing the existing stock of 3G pitches in Oldham (outside of some school activity).

3.5: Conclusion

In conclusion, there is insufficient supply of 11v11 size 3G pitches to meet current and anticipated future football training demand in Oldham, with a potential current shortfall of 3.5 11v11 3G pitches identified and an anticipated future shortfall of 4.5 11v11 3G pitches.

In addition, to ensure that current supply and any future supply is maintained to a good enough standard to accommodate demand, providers are encouraged to put pitch replacement funds in place to ensure long-term sustainability. This will allow for re-surfacing to take place when required and will ensure that pitches can remain on the FA 3G Pitch Register.

Supply and demand summary

- **In Oldham, there is insufficient supply of 3G pitches (11v11 size) to meeting football training demand (based on the FA training model of one 11v11 pitch accommodating 38 teams) with a shortfall of 3.5 11v11 3G pitches identified currently and an anticipated future shortfall of 4.5 11v11 3G pitches for football.**

Supply summary

- There are seven 11v11 3G pitches in Oldham across seven sites. All seven pitches are sports lit and available for community use.
- Three 11v11 3G pitches are located in the North Analysis Area, three located in the South Analysis Area and one 11v11 3G pitch is located in the West Analysis Area.
- As well as the 11v11 3G pitches, there are also 18 smaller size outdoor 3G pitches across 14 sites in Oldham. Of these, 14 pitches are available to the community and are sports lit leaving 22% of the small sided provision unavailable for community use.
- Most of the smaller size pitch provision is provided in the East Analysis Area (six of 18 – 33%), followed by the South Analysis Area providing five smaller size pitches (28%).
- The pitch located at The Hathershaw College is the only small sided 3G pitch which is FA approved and therefore is sanctioned to safely can accommodate match play.
- A planning application has recently been approved for the replacement of an existing grass training pitch known as Little Wembley (Oldham Athletic Football Club) with a new 11v11 3G pitch with sports lighting which will be both football and rugby league compliant.
- Chadderton FC has been awarded FF grant funding to replace its grass stadia pitch with a new 11v11 3G pitch with accommodating car parking and sports lighting. Its working with different sporting organisations including Kabaddi for the use of the 3G pitch.
- The Hathershaw College has been awarded funding to resurface and extend the size of the existing 3G pitch to 11v11 size. Furthermore, there is an application for a new 11v11 3G pitch located at Oasis Academy Leesbrook which is being funded by the Academy.
- In Oldham, the 3G pitch located at Avro Football Club (Vestacare Stadium), Co-op Academy Failsworth, Crompton House C of E School, Oasis Academy Oldham, Oldham Academy North, Royton and Crompton E-Act Academy and The Hathershaw College are all on the FA 3G Pitch Register.
- Six of the seven 11v11 3G pitches are managed by education providers with only the 3G pitch located at Avro Football Club (Vestacare Stadium) managed by the Sports Club.
- The smaller size 3G pitches are managed by either commercial management (four or 22%) or education providers (14 or 78%).
- In Oldham, the 3G pitches located at both Royton and Crompton E-Act Academy and Oldham Academy North are assessed as good quality. The 11v11 3G pitches located at North Chadderton School is assessed as poor quality.
- There are four good quality, 10 standard quality and four poor quality smaller size 3G pitches located at Broadfield Primary School, Honeywell Business & Community Centre and Waterhead Academy.
- All midweek and weekend availability are currently at capacity or close to capacity in Oldham.
- There are currently no World Rugby compliant/RFL Community Standard 3G pitches in Oldham.

Demand summary

- Although there are 183 teams which export match demand outside of Oldham there is still a need to train locally. Therefore, given there is a total of 559 teams which originate in Oldham, there is a theoretical need for 15 11v11 3G pitches (rounded up from 14.7). As there are currently 11.5 pitch equivalents provided, this means that there is a potential need for 3.5 additional 11v11 3G pitches to meet all current training demand.
- When considering future demand for an additional 41 teams (based on growth identified in Part 2 of this report), there is potential demand for 16 full size pitches overall (rounded up from 15.79), which means a theoretical future shortfall of 4.5 11v11 3G pitches.
- When broken down a shortfall is identified in each analysis area apart from the Central Analysis Area.

PART 4: CRICKET

4.1: Introduction

The Lancashire Cricket Foundation (LCF) is the main governing and representative body for cricket for Oldham. Its aim is to promote the game at all levels through partnerships with professional and recreational cricketing clubs as well as other appropriate agencies. Working closely with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), it is responsible for the management and development of every form of recreational cricket for men, women and children within the area. It is also currently working with the ECB on delivering its Strategy, Inspiring Generations, which is currently in the process of being refreshed.

For adult cricket in Oldham there are three main offerings; Saturday, Sunday and midweek cricket. The youth league structure tends to be club based matches which are played mid-week.

County Facilities Strategy (CFS)

In 2022, to build upon the ECB's Inspiring Generations Strategy, the ECB has started the process of producing County Facilities Strategies (CFS). A CFS will be produced by each individual county cricket board and will be unique to its geographical area as well as being diverse in its representation.

The CFS will be a 'long-term' plan with county boards ensuring the Strategy provides a ten-year view of facility needs. Like a PPOSS, the county cricket boards will establish key stakeholders (clubs, leagues, county sports partnerships, county pitch advisors & Sport England etc) within its locality to consult during the development of the Strategy.

Each county cricket board will utilise up to date PPOSS within its locality to support the development of the CFS, utilising the PPOSS findings as a 'high-quality' evidence base. The CFS will look at a range of facilities which support cricket across its region, with the ECB setting out guidelines to ensure that the following facilities are considered throughout the development of the CFS:

Types of facility

- "Traditional" outdoor facilities:
  - Pitches and Outfields.
  - Pavilions.
  - Practice.

- "Non-traditional" facilities:
  - Multi Use Games Areas.
  - Tapeball/softball spaces.
  - Courts or cages.

- Indoor facilities:
  - Practice (multi use halls).
  - Performance (cricket specific).
  - Matchplay (6 or 8 a side).

Each CFS will be used to shape investment decisions and priorities, particularly how each county cricket board will use the devolved budget within the County Grants Fund and prioritise larger scale strategic projects.

Notwithstanding the above, it is important to recognise that the CFS is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential investment; it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. Consequently, it cannot be used in place of a PPOSS and is not an accepted evidence base for development proposals that need to be judged against the NPPF and Sport England's Playing Field Policy.

Consultation

In total, 17 affiliated cricket clubs are identified as playing within Oldham. Of the 17 clubs in Oldham, 16 responded to consultation requests resulting in a response rate of 94% with support provided from Lancashire Cricket Foundation to improve the response rate.

Since the previous study Hollinwood CC has folded.

Table 4.1: Cricket club response rate

Club name	Club response
Austerlands CC	Yes
Crompton CC	Yes
Delph & Dobcross CC	Yes
Failsworth Macedonia CC	Yes
Friarmere CC	Yes
Glodwick CC	Yes
Greenfield CC	Yes
Heyside CC	No
Moorside CC	Yes
Oldham CC	Yes
Royton CC	Yes
Saddleworth CC	Yes
Shaw CC	Yes
Springhead CC	Yes
Uppermill CC	Yes
Werneth CC	Yes
Woodhouses CC	Yes
Oldham	**16/17 (94%)**

In addition, there are nine nomadic clubs which has been identified by Lancashire Cricket Foundation. These clubs are known to be playing across three sites in Oldham located at Oldham Cricket Club, Uppermill Cricket Club and Saddleworth Cricket Club. More detail surrounding these clubs can be found in the demand section below.

4.2: Supply

In total, there are 17 grass wicket cricket squares in Oldham, provided across 17 sites. All the cricket squares are available for community use.

Most provision is identified in the East Analysis Area with nine and Central and West analysis areas both have the least, with one each.

Table 4.2: Summary of grass wicket squares and community availability

Analysis area	No. of community available squares	No. of unavailable squares
Central	1	0
East	9	0
North	4	0
South	2	0
West	1	0
Oldham	**17**	**0**

Disused squares

Hollinwood Sports Club (South Analysis Area) previously had a grass cricket square maintained. The square consisted of 10 wickets and has not been maintained since *circa* 2018; however, the site is still actively used for rugby league activity.

Ball strike

Where there is either new cricket provision being put in place, or more commonly a development which may prejudice the use of the cricket facility, there is a requirement for a full ball strike risk assessment to be undertaken and appropriate mitigation put in place as part of the development. As such, the ECB recommends that the clubs and organisations seek to have a ball strike risk assessment undertaken; further information can be provided by the ECB.

It should be noted that through consultation, there is currently a live issue with ball strike at both Heyside Cricket Club (OL2 6ND) and Failsworth Macedonia Cricket Club (M35 9QG) with the latter due to being a small ground.

Non-turf pitches

A total of 11 non-turf pitches (NTPs) are identified in Oldham. Of these, four support existing grass wicket squares, with all others being standalone NTPs. Nine are available to the community.

Table 4.3: Summary of non-turf pitch locations

Site ID	Site name	Community use?	Analysis area	Position
4	Austerlands Cricket Club	Yes	East	Square
17	Clayton Playing Fields	Yes	East	Standalone
36	George Street Playing Fields	Yes	North	Standalone
40	Greenfield Cricket Club	Yes	East	Square
46	Heyside Playing Fields	Yes	North	Standalone
63	New Barn	Yes	North	Standalone
74	Oldham Edge	Yes	Central	Standalone
107	The Hathershaw College	No	South	Standalone
109	The Radclyffe School	No	West	Standalone
111	Uppermill Sports Club	Yes	East	Square
119	Woodhouses Cricket Club	Yes	South	Square

The ECB highlights that NTPs which follow its TS6 guidance on performance standards are suitable for high level, senior play. Additionally, NTPs are also frequently used for junior matches, which in turn can help reduce excessive use of grass wickets.

The maps below show the location of all cricket squares currently servicing Oldham. For a key to the map see Table 4.4

Figure 4.1: Location of cricket pitches in Oldham

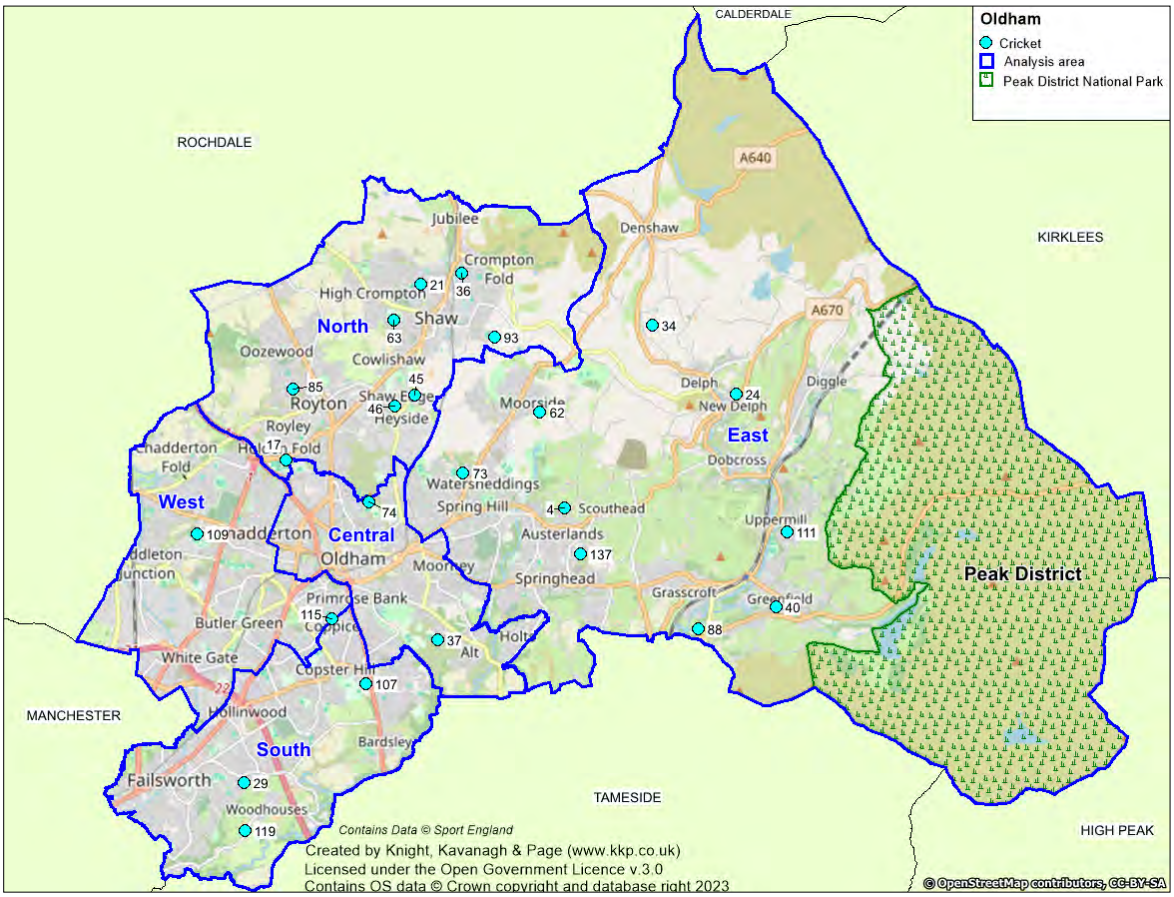


Table 4.4: Key to map of cricket squares

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of grass wickets	No. of non-turf wickets
4	Austerlands Cricket Club	East	Yes	14	1
17	Clayton Playing Fields	North	Yes	-	1
21	Crompton Cricket Club	North	Yes	14	-
24	Delph and Dobcross Cricket Club	East	Yes	10	-
29	Failsworth Macedonia Cricket Club	South	Yes	8	-
34	Friarmere Cricket Club	East	Yes	16	-
36	George Street Playing Fields	North	Yes	-	1
37	Glodwick Cricket Club	Central	Yes	15	-
40	Greenfield Cricket Club	East	Yes	8	1
45	Heyside Cricket Club	North	Yes	12	-
46	Heyside Playing Fields	North	Yes	-	1
62	Moorside Cricket & Bowling Club	East	Yes	10	-
63	New Barn	North	Yes	-	1
73	Oldham Cricket Club	East	Yes	12	-
74	Oldham Edge	Central	Yes	-	1
85	Royton Cricket Club	North	Yes	10	-
88	Saddleworth Cricket Tennis and Bowling Club	East	Yes	12	-
93	Shaw Cricket Club	North	Yes	10	-
107	The Hathershaw College	South	No	-	1
109	The Radclyffe School	West	No	-	1
111	Uppermill Sports Club	East	Yes	10	1
115	Werneth Cricket Club	West	Yes	12	-
119	Woodhouses Cricket Club	South	Yes	13	1
137	Springhead Cricket Club	East	Yes	7	-

Management and security of tenure

Within Oldham most clubs own or lease their home grounds, and therefore are known to have secure tenure.

Table 4.5: Summary of security of tenure for clubs

Site ID	Home ground	Club	Agreement	Tenure
4	Austerlands Cricket Club	Austerlands CC	Freehold	Secure
21	Crompton Cricket Club	Crompton CC	Freehold	Secure
24	Delph and Dobcross Cricket Club	Delph & Dobcross CC	Freehold	Secure
29	Failsworth Macedonia Cricket Club	Failsworth Macedonia CC	Long term lease agreement from Failsworth Macedonia Church	Secure
34	Friarmere Cricket Club	Friarmere CC	Freehold	Secure
37	Glodwick Cricket Club	Glodwick CC	Long term lease agreement (16 years)	Secure
40	Greenfield Cricket Club	Greenfield CC	Freehold	Secure
45	Heyside Cricket Club	Heyside CC	Freehold	Secure
62	Moorside Cricket & Bowling Club	Moorside CC	Freehold	Secure
73	Oldham Cricket Club	Oldham CC	Freehold	Secure
85	Royton Cricket Club	Royton CC	Freehold	Secure
88	Saddleworth Cricket Tennis and Bowling Club	Saddleworth CC	Long term lease agreement	Secure
93	Shaw Cricket Club	Shaw CC	Freehold	Secure
111	Uppermill Sports Club	Uppermill CC	Freehold	Secure
115	Werneth Cricket Club	Werneth CC	Freehold	Secure
119	Woodhouses Cricket Club	Woodhouses CC	Freehold	Secure
137	Springhead Cricket Club	Springhead CC	Long term lease agreement from Springhead Congregational Church (18 years)	Secure

No clubs currently leasing their site report issues with the agreements in place.

Pitch quality

The quality of cricket pitches has been assessed via a combination of site visits carried out July 2024 (using non-technical assessments as determined by the ECB) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- Good.
- Standard.
- Poor.

The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows; Good (>80%), Standard (50-79%), Poor (<49%).

For the full assessment criteria, please see Appendix 2.

Maintaining high pitch quality is the most important aspect of cricket; if the wicket is poor, it can affect the quality of the game and can, in some instances, become dangerous. As an example, if a square is poor quality, a ball can bounce erratically on a wicket and become a danger to nearby players.

The audit of grass wicket cricket squares in Oldham found five (29%) to be good quality and 12 (71%) to be of standard quality. None are assessed as poor quality.

Table 4.6: Quality ratings for grass wicket squares (site by site)

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of squares	Square quality
4	Austerlands Cricket Club	East	1	Standard
21	Crompton Cricket Club	North	1	Standard
24	Delph and Dobcross Cricket Club	East	1	Good
29	Failsworth Macedonia Cricket Club	South	1	Standard
34	Friarmere Cricket Club	East	1	Standard
37	Glodwick Cricket Club	Central	1	Standard
40	Greenfield Cricket Club	East	1	Good
45	Heyside Cricket Club	North	1	Good
62	Moorside Cricket & Bowling Club	East	1	Standard
73	Oldham Cricket Club	East	1	Standard
85	Royton Cricket Club	North	1	Standard
88	Saddleworth Cricket Tennis and Bowling Club	East	1	Good
93	Shaw Cricket Club	North	1	Standard
111	Uppermill Sports Club	East	1	Good
115	Werneth Cricket Club	West	1	Standard
119	Woodhouses Cricket Club	South	1	Standard
137	Springhead Cricket Club	East	1	Standard

Springhead CC reports that the drainage system at their home ground (Springfield Cricket Club) has been ineffective with the constant wet weather over winter 2023 and it had to start the season off with part of the outfield roped off as it was too wet to prepare for the season.

Woodhouses CC states the quality of it square located at Woodhouses Cricket Club is improving due to ongoing investment of time and materials into the square. However, it also reports the outfield is uneven and has issues with weed growth.

Royton CC states that the drainage on its square needs replacing due to it failing during poor weather conditions and is currently looking at funding options for this.

The audit of NTPs in Oldham found five to be good quality, four standard quality and two NTPs poor quality. The site-by-site breakdown of this is shown in the table below.

Table 4.7: Summary of NTP quality

Site	Postcode	No. of NTPs	NTP quality rating
Austerlands Cricket Club	OL4 3QW	1	Standard
Clayton Playing Fields	OL2 5DF	1	Standard
George Street Playing Fields	OL2 8HG	1	Good
Greenfield Cricket Club	OL3 7JW	1	Good
Heyside Playing Fields	OL2 6NY	1	Good
New Barn	OL2 7HA	1	Good
Oldham Edge	OL1 3EN	1	Good
The Hathershaw College	OL8 3EP	1	Poor
The Radclyffe School	OL9 0LS	1	Poor
Uppermill Sports Club	OL3 6HG	1	Standard
Woodhouses Cricket Club	M35 9NG	1	Standard

Grass Pitch Improvement Fund[14]

To coincide with the utilisation of PitchPower (PP) for cricket the ECB in partnership with Sport England and National Lottery has released the Grass Pitch Improvement Fund (GPIF). The GPIF aims to tackle inequalities by providing improved access to good quality, safe playing facilities for targeted groups. The Sport England Lottery Fund will provide funding for projects in England with projects in Wales supported by the England and Wales Cricket Trust.

Priority will be given to applications which support cricket for the following groups:

- Women's and girls' cricket.
- Cricket in diverse communities.
- Disability cricket.
- Low socio-economic groups (LSEG).

Investment will be targeted into three main areas:

- Improving the quality of squares and outfields (for grass pitches rated 'unsuitable' or 'basic' to improve to at least 'good').
- Creating sustainable management of sites (through irrigation and machinery improvements).
- Installing hybrid pitches to increase playing capacity.

The fund will run until March 2027, or whenever the funding is full allocated, whichever is sooner.

PitchPower Assessment

PitchPower (a technical assessment of quality) for cricket began to be used in 2024 with the initial reports being produced towards the end of the season. More information surrounding PitchPower, and its functionality is available in Part 2: Football. The main difference for the analysis of cricket is that both the outfield and square are assessed for quality.

[14] https://resources.ecb.co.uk/ecb/document/2024/07/23/a754a60b-a11a-4dee-aa7e-06fbdc040297/GPIF-guidance-notes.pdf

The outfield focusing on analysing grass height, grass coverage, weed coverage, root depth, thatch depth, undesirable grasses, surface debris and percentage of pest and disease. In comparison the square evaluation includes most of the above in addition to surface evenness, core profile, root break, worm casts, pitch markings and post-match repairs.

PitchPower assessments use a new five step Performance Quality Standard (PQS) rating system developed by the GMA, with the FF and Sport England agreeing alignment with the capacity guidance within the existing PPS guidance. This alignment is shown in the table below.

Table 4.8: Agreed equivalent PPOSS quality rating for PQS ratings

PQS Rating	PPOSS Quality Rating
Poor	Poor
Basic	Standard
Good	Good
Advanced	Good
High	Good

In Oldham, 12 cricket sites have received a PitchPower assessment. The findings of these in comparison to the PPOSS findings are shown in the table below.

Table 4.9: Summary of PitchPower findings compared to PPOSS quality ratings

Site ID	Site name	Club users	PitchPower rating	PPOSS rating
4	Austerlands Cricket Club	Austerlands CC	Basic	Standard
21	Crompton Cricket Club	Crompton CC	Basic	Standard
34	Friarmere Cricket Club	Friarmere CC	Basic	Standard
37	Glodwick Cricket Club	Glodwick CC	Basic	Standard
40	Greenfield Cricket Club	Greenfield CC	Basic	Good
45	Heyside Cricket Club	Heyside CC	Basic	Good
62	Moorside Cricket & Bowling Club	Moorside CC	Basic	Standard
85	Royton Cricket Club	Royton CC	Basic	Standard
88	Saddleworth Cricket Tennis and Bowling Club	Saddleworth CC	Basic	Good
93	Shaw Cricket Club	Shaw CC	Basic	Standard
111	Uppermill Sports Club	Uppermill CC	Basic	Good
119	Woodhouses Cricket Club	Woodhouses CC	Basic	Standard

For reference the PitchPower quality scores will be the ones used in the pitch capacity analysis to follow. Most ratings from PitchPower assessments are aligned with those from the non-technical assessments.

Ancillary facilities

The extent of ancillary facilities required differs between times of play. For example, senior teams playing at weekends typically need to access clubhouse and kitchen facilities to provide teas, whereas this is often not required for junior and short format senior matches, where the need is more for access to suitable changing and/or toilet facilities.

Quality and access to required match day and preparatory facilities across the Borough's is varied, with clubs playing at privately managed or sports club sites generally better served than those playing at community managed provision.

Ancillary facility rating is primarily influenced by the type and quality of amenities which are available on a site, such as a clubhouse, changing rooms, showering provision, car parking, dedicated umpire, spectator facilities and boundary fencing. Provision of high quality ancillary facilities is a key aspect of the ECB's Inspiring Generations Strategy, to meet the expectations of the core participation base as well as key growth markets such as women and girls, South Asian and BAME communities and All Stars and Dynamos cricket (detailed later in the section).

The audit of ancillary facilities at community available grass pitch cricket sites in Oldham determines that six squares (35%) are accompanied by good quality provision, nine squares (53%) are accompanied by standard quality provision and two squares (12%) have poor quality supporting ancillary provision located at Oldham Cricket Club and Royton Cricket Club.

Table 4.10: Changing room quality (at community available sites with natural turf squares)

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of squares	Quality
4	Austerlands Cricket Club	East	1	Good
21	Crompton Cricket Club	North	1	Standard
24	Delph and Dobcross Cricket Club	East	1	Standard
29	Failsworth Macedonia Cricket Club	South	1	Good
34	Friarmere Cricket Club	East	1	Standard
37	Glodwick Cricket Club	Central	1	Standard
40	Greenfield Cricket Club	East	1	Good
45	Heyside Cricket Club	North	1	Standard
62	Moorside Cricket & Bowling Club	East	1	Good
73	Oldham Cricket Club	East	1	Poor
85	Royton Cricket Club	North	1	Poor
88	Saddleworth Cricket Tennis and Bowling Club	East	1	Good
93	Shaw Cricket Club	North	1	Standard
111	Uppermill Sports Club	East	1	Standard
115	Werneth Cricket Club	West	1	Standard
119	Woodhouses Cricket Club	South	1	Good
137	Springhead Cricket Club	East	1	Standard

Oldham Cricket Club and Royton Cricket Club are identified as providing poor quality changing rooms due to being outdated and in need of refurbishment.

It's reported that the flooring within the pavilion at Oldham Cricket Club is not suitable for use and needs to be replaced.

Royton Cricket Club, Springhead Cricket Club and Weneth Cricket Club all report issues with vandalism at their respective home ground with the latter stating its changing provision was broken into leaving damage.

Training facilities

Access to cricket nets is important, particularly for pre-season/winter training. Clubs access both indoor and outdoor provision before the season commences. During the cricket season, outdoor training provision supplies most of the use.

Where clubs do not have dedicated fixed net provision, they generally make use of mobile nets; these are used for practice utilising both/either of an NTP or grass practice wickets on the respective squares such as Springhead Cricket Club and Oldham Cricket Club.

Table 4.11: Summary of current fixed net training facilities

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Training facility	Quality
4	Austerlands Cricket Club	East	2x lane facility	Good
21	Crompton Cricket Club	North	2x lane facility	Standard
24	Delph and Dobcross Cricket Club	East	2x lane facility	Standard
29	Failsworth Macedonia Cricket Club	South	1x lane facility	Poor
34	Friarmere Cricket Club	East	1x lane facility	Standard
37	Glodwick Cricket Club	Central	3x lane facility	Good
40	Greenfield Cricket Club	East	2x lane facility	Poor
45	Heyside Cricket Club	North	2x lane facility	Good
62	Moorside Cricket & Bowling Club	East	2x lane facility	Standard
85	Royton Cricket Club	North	4x lane facility	Good
88	Saddleworth Cricket Tennis and Bowling Club	East	3x lane facility	Good
93	Shaw Cricket Club	North	2x lane facility	Poor
111	Uppermill Sports Club	East	2x lane facility	Good
115	Werneth Cricket Club	West	2x lane facility	Good
119	Woodhouses Cricket Club	South	2x lane facility	Good

The audit of fixed net training facilities in Oldham found just over half (eight or 53%) to be good quality, four (27%) to be standard quality and three (20%) to be of poor quality.

4.3: Demand

In Oldham, there are 17 clubs generating a total of 128 teams broken down as 63 senior men's teams, six senior women's teams, 58 junior boys' teams and one junior girls' team. The table below presents this on a club by club basis.

Table 4.12: Summary of teams by club

Club	Analysis area	No. of senior men's teams	No. of senior women's teams	No. of junior boys' teams	No. of junior girls' teams
Austerlands CC	East	2	-	-	-
Crompton CC	North	3	-	3	-
Delph & Dobcross CC	East	3	-	3	-
Failsworth Macedonia CC	South	4	-	-	-
Friarmere CC	East	4	-	4	-
Glodwick CC	Central	3	-	5	-
Greenfield CC	East	5	1	7	-
Heyside CC	North	6	-	3	-

Club	Analysis area	No. of senior men's teams	No. of senior women's teams	No. of junior boys' teams	No. of junior girls' teams
Moorside CC	East	2	1	4	-
Oldham CC	East	2	-	-	-
Royton CC	North	5	-	7	-
Saddleworth CC	East	3	2	5	1
Shaw CC	North	6	1	5	-
Springhead CC	East	6	-	-	-
Uppermill CC	East	3	-	4	-
Werneth CC	West	3	1	4	-
Woodhouses CC	South	3	-	4	-
-	**Total**	**63**	**6**	**58**	**1**

The biggest club (in terms of participation) in Oldham is Greenfield CC with 13 teams albeit Royton CC and Shaw CC also have 12 teams each.

Most teams in Oldham play in the East Analysis Area which accommodates 62 teams and almost half of the cricket participation (48%), followed by the North Analysis Area with 39 teams (30%). The least number of teams is in the Central and West analysis areas with eight teams (6%) respectively.

Table 4.13: Summary of teams by analysis area

Analysis area	No. of senior men's teams	No. of senior women's teams	No. of junior boys' teams	No. of junior girls' teams
Central	3	-	5	-
East	30	4	27	1
North	20	1	18	-
South	7	-	4	-
West	3	1	4	-
Oldham	**63**	**6**	**58**	**1**

Unmet/latent demand

Unmet demand is existing demand at clubs which is not able to access sufficient supply of pitches for match play or training. It is usually expressed, for example, where a team is already training but is unable to access a match pitch or where a league or club operates a waiting list. Consultation did not highlight any potential unmet demand.

Latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision. There is currently no latent demand which was highlighted through consultation.

Imported/exported demand

Exported demand refers to Oldham based teams that are currently accessing pitches outside of the local authority for their home fixtures, normally because their pitch requirements cannot be met, which is usually because of pitch supply, in some cases quality issues or stipulated league requirements for access to certain facilities. There is no known exported demand from Oldham.

Imported demand refers to any demand from neighbouring local authorities that accesses facilities within the Oldham study area due to a lack of available facilities in other local authorities where such team or club is based. There is also no known imported demand from Oldham.

Future demand

Future demand can be defined in two ways, through participation increases and using population forecasts. In addition, the Strategy & Action Plan that follows this report will contain housing growth scenarios that will estimate the additional demand for cricket arising from housing development plans within Oldham.

Notwithstanding the above, the ECB's five-year media rights deals, from 2020-2024 includes a continuation of the ECB relationship with Sky Sports, now extending beyond broadcasting as a genuine partnership to secure significant investment and commitment to increase participation and drive engagement. Together, significant investment in participation and increased free to air media coverage could see future demand increase to levels in excess of those anticipated through the PPOSS and the impact should therefore be reviewed over coming years.

Population forecasts

Based on population projections to 2041 (the period to which this assessment projects population based future demand), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) can estimate the likely additional demand for grass cricket pitches that will arise from any growth.

Using the current and future populations in each of the relevant age groups together with the current team numbers, team generation rates (TGRs) have been established to understand how much growth is required to establish one new team.

Total current population in Oldham of 242,171 will increase to 261,017 by 2041. The table below shows the number of new teams generated by the new population and the requisite match equivalent sessions.

Table 4.14: Authority wide team generation rates

Age group	Team generation rate	No. of new teams generated by the new population	No. of new teams generated by the new population - rounded figure	Peak time for population	Average games for age group	No. of match equivalent sessions per season[15]
Men (18-55yrs)	1: 925	**5.18**	5	Saturday	12	60
Women (18-55yrs)	1:9,639	**0.49**	0	Sunday	6	0
Boys (7-18yrs)	1:352	**4.77**	5	Midweek	6	30
Girls (7-18yrs)	0	**0**	0	Midweek	6	0

As seen in the above, there are 10 additional teams expected to be generated by population growth alone for Oldham generating demand for 90 match sessions per season.

These figures will be applied to the supply and demand analysis later in this section.

[15] Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, one team accounts to 0.5 match equivalent sessions on their relevant pitch type.

Although no women and girls' teams are predicted to be created via population growth alone, consultation with the ECB suggests that further development of female cricket in Oldham is likely as it is currently a national priority to increase women and girl's participation. It is therefore important to acknowledge that there are plans and strategies to increase the number of teams at some formats beyond what current trends and population changes would ordinarily suggest. This is accounted for below where clubs are reporting future demand women's and girls' teams.

Participation increases

Of the responding clubs in Oldham, five quantified their aspirations to increase levels of participation. This equates to a total predicted growth of one senior men's, three senior women's, two junior boys' and one junior girls' team.

Table 4.15: Future demand expressed by clubs

Club	Analysis area	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boys	Junior girls
Delph & Dobcross CC	East	-	-	1	-
Oldham CC	East	1	-	-	-
Royton CC	North	-	1	-	1
Werneth CC	West	-	1	-	-
Woodhouses CC	South	-	1	1	-
-	**Total**	**1**	**3**	**2**	**1**

Future demand summary

Population increases will be taken through into the supply and demand analysis later in this section. This is due to participation increases being seen as more aspirational. The impact of participation increases will be explored in a scenario in the preceding Strategy and Action Plan document.

Additional demand

All Stars cricket

In partnership with the ECB and Chance to Shine cricket clubs in Oldham can register to become an ECB All Stars Cricket Centre. Once registered, a club can deliver the programme which aims to introduce cricket to children aged from five to eight.

Subsequently, this may lead to increased interest and demand for junior cricket at clubs. The programme seeks to achieve the following aims:

- Increase cricket activity for five to eight year olds in the school and club environment.
- Develop consistency of message in both settings to aid transition.
- Improve generic movement skills for children, using cricket as the vehicle.
- Make it easier for new volunteers to support and deliver in the club environment.
- Use fun small sided games to enthuse new children and volunteers to follow and play the game.

Dynamos cricket

A key development area for the ECB in delivering on the outcomes of 'Inspiring Generations' will be the Dynamos programme for 8-11 year olds which originally aimed to launch in 2020. It plans on building on the significant growth of the All Stars Cricket programme for 5-8 year olds and will develop the pathway to retain juniors progressing from All Stars into Dynamos. Where All Stars seeks to engage children in cricket activity and learning the skills, Dynamos seeks to engage children in learning how to play, introducing a modified soft ball format as competitive progression with a view to eventual transition through to hardball cricket. The programme will be strongly linked to The Hundred, a new short format competition which launched in 2021.

The table below summarises sites and clubs which are involved in All Stars and Dynamos and the participation figures for 2023.

Table 4.16: Summary of All Stars and Dynamos participation

Site ID	Site	Club	All Stars participants (male)	All Stars participants (female)	Dynamos participants
34	Friarmere Cricket Club	Friarmere CC	10	5	-
37	Glodwick Cricket Club	Glodwick CC	-	-	18
40	Greenfield Cricket Club	Greenfield CC	19	4	-
45	Heyside Cricket Club	Heyside CC	9	7	-
85	Royton Cricket Club	Royton CC	23	7	-
88	Saddleworth Cricket Tennis and Bowling Club	Saddleworth CC	54	6	-
93	Shaw Cricket Club	Shaw CC	20	7	-
115	Werneth Cricket Club	Werneth CC	6	-	-
119	Woodhouses Cricket Club	Woodhouses CC	29	10	-
137	Springhead Cricket Club	Springhead CC	40	-	-
-	-	**Total**	210	46	18

Softball cricket

Softball is an ECB initiative aimed at women and girls to increase participation in cricket as a sport. The aim of softball cricket sections is enjoyment and participation, without pads, a hardball, a heavy bat and with limited rules. Sessions are played on the outfield and follow a festival format with each session running for a maximum of two and half hours, shorter than traditional formats.

Glodwick CC, Royton CC, Saddleworth CC and Werneth CC operate women's softball sections in Oldham.

It should be noted that All Stars, Dynamos and Softball cricket generally takes place on the cricket outfields rather than the actual squares. Although this does not impact the carrying capacity of the square it does influence the accessibility of the squares as whilst the outfield is in use the main square cannot be used to accommodate fixtures. Therefore, this may limit the potential spare capacity whilst these activities are taking place, generally on midweek evenings or Sunday mornings.

Nomadic clubs

There are nine nomadic clubs identified in Oldham utilising three grounds in Oldham, Oldham Cricket Club, Uppermill Cricket Club and Saddleworth Cricket Club for midweek T20 matches. All nine clubs are listed below.

- Chadderton CC.
- Westwood CC.
- Coldhurst CC.
- Oldham Stars Sports Club.
- Oldham Lions CC.
- Oldham United CC.
- Oldham Rising CC.
- Oldham Rising CC.
- Oldham Kind Raiders CC.
- Oldham West CC.

Peak time demand

An analysis of match play identifies that peak time demand for senior cricket in Oldham is Saturday, although several teams also play on a Sunday including senior women's teams. As such, both are considered within the supply and demand analysis later in the section. For junior cricket, peak time is midweek.

4.4: Capacity analysis

Capacity analysis for cricket is measured on a seasonal rather than a weekly basis. This is due to playability (as only one match is generally played per pitch per day at weekends or weekday evening) and because wickets are rotated throughout the season to reduce wear and tear and to allow for repair.

The capacity of a square to accommodate matches is driven by the number and quality of wickets. This section of the report presents the current pitch stock available for cricket and illustrates the number of competitive matches per season per square.

For good quality squares, capacity is considered to be five matches per wicket per season, whilst for a standard quality square, capacity is four matches per wicket per season. For poor quality squares, no capacity is considered to exist as such provision is not deemed safe for play.

The number of matches played by each team has been derived from consultation with the clubs. Where consultation was not possible, the assumption has been made that all senior teams play between ten and 12 home matches per year and all junior teams play between four and eight matches per year depending on their age and level of competition.

To help calculate spare capacity, the ECB suggests that a good quality grass wicket should be able to take five (senior) matches per season.

The above 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

Please note that NTPs have been discounted from the table overleaf. No NTPs are recorded as accommodating more than 60 matches per season; therefore, all NTPs are considered to have spare capacity. This translates to actual spare capacity for junior cricket as peak time is midweek, whereby non-turf wickets are more commonly used and matches can be played on a variety of days.

The capacity analysis assumes that all clubs rotate their wickets evenly. However, this may not be the case at all sites, with central wickets potentially used more commonly than outer wickets that are closer to a boundary, especially for senior matches. The idea is to showcase what the capacity is or could be if best practice is followed for the whole square, rather than doing it on a wicket-by-wicket basis.

Spare capacity

The table below explains the difference between the potential spare capacity referenced in Table 4:18 in the final three columns (Saturday, Sunday and Midweek).

Table 4.17: Spare capacity examples

Potential spare capacity in peak period (examples)	Explanation of spare capacity
No	Means the pitch is played to capacity within this peak period and therefore cannot accommodate any further demand.
Yes	Not highlighted, it means there is spare capacity to accommodate further demand within this designated peak period however this is discounted due to the pitch already being in full use at the time, played to capacity or being overplayed so it cannot accommodate any additional demand.
Yes	Highlighted in green, it means there is actual available spare capacity within this peak period which can be utilised.

Table 4.18: Capacity analysis of community available grass cricket squares

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Users	Security of tenure	No. of squares	Pitch quality	No. of grass wickets	Capacity (MES)	Current use (MES)	Nomadic team usage (MES)[16]	Capacity balance (MES)	Potential spare capacity/ availability for Saturday cricket	Potential spare capacity/ availability for Sunday cricket	Potential spare capacity/ availability for midweek cricket
4	Austerlands Cricket Club	East	Austerlands CC	Secure	1	Standard	14	56	19	-	37	No	Yes	Yes
21	Crompton Cricket Club	North	Crompton CC	Secure	1	Standard	14	56	41	-	15	No	Yes	Yes
24	Delph and Dobcross Cricket Club	East	Delph & Dobcross CC	Secure	1	Good	10	50	49	-	1	No	No	No
29	Failsworth Macedonia Cricket Club	South	Failsworth Macedonia CC	Secure	1	Standard	8	32	23	-	9	No	No	Yes
34	Friarmere Cricket Club	East	Friarmere CC	Secure	1	Standard	16	64	49	-	15	No	No	Yes
37	Glodwick Cricket Club	Central	Glodwick CC	Secure	1	Standard	15	60	53	-	7	No	No	Yes
40	Greenfield Cricket Club	East	Greenfield CC	Secure	1	Standard	8	32	90	-	58	No	No	No
45	Heyside Cricket Club	North	Heyside CC	Secure	1	Standard	12	48	52	-	4	No	No	No
62	Moorside Cricket & Bowling Club	East	Moorside CC	Secure	1	Standard	10	40	49	-	9	No	No	No
73	Oldham Cricket Club	East	Oldham CC	Secure	1	Standard	12	48	16	60	28	No	No	No
85	Royton Cricket Club	North	Royton CC	Secure	1	Standard	10	40	99	-	59	No	No	No
88	Saddleworth Cricket Tennis and Bowling Club	East	Saddleworth CC	Secure	1	Standard	12	48	65	60	77	No	No	No
93	Shaw Cricket Club	North	Shaw CC	Secure	1	Standard	10	40	95	-	55	No	No	No
111	Uppermill Sports Club	East	Uppermill CC	Secure	1	Standard	10	40	44	60	64	No	No	No
115	Werneth Cricket Club	West	Werneth CC	Secure	1	Standard	12	48	46	-	2	No	No	No
119	Woodhouses Cricket Club	South	Woodhouses CC	Secure	1	Standard	13	52	56	-	4	No	No	No
137	Springhead Cricket Club	East	Springhead CC	Secure	1	Standard	7	28	38	-	10	No	No	No

[16] Each club plays 20 games per season (midweek T20).

Saturday cricket - spare capacity

A square is only considered to have actual spare capacity if it is available for further usage. For senior men's cricket, peak time is Saturday as this is when most demand exists. As only one match can be played on each square per day, only two Saturday teams can be assigned to play home matches on one square (based on matches being played on an alternate home and away basis). As such, if a square has two Saturday teams already playing home fixtures on it, no actual spare capacity is perceived to exist for additional senior usage. If one or no teams are playing on a square on a Saturday, and it has overall capacity, actual spare capacity for senior demand is generally identified.

Notwithstanding the above, there may be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as actual spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of regular training sessions, or to protect the quality of the site. As such, no sites that are over, at, or close to capacity are considered to have actual spare capacity (at least 12 match equivalent sessions per season of spare capacity are required for an additional senior team to be accommodated) and neither are sites with unsecure tenure as future usage cannot be guaranteed.

Taking the above into consideration there is no actual spare capacity to accommodate further senior demand at peak time on a Saturday in Oldham.

Sunday cricket - spare capacity

Like Saturday cricket, a square on a Sunday is only considered to have actual spare capacity if it is available for further usage. As only one match can be played on each square per day, only two Sunday teams can be assigned to play home matches on one square (based on matches being played on an alternate home and away basis). As such, if a square has two Sunday teams already playing home fixtures on it, no actual spare capacity is perceived to exist for additional senior usage. If one or no teams are playing on a square on a Sunday, and it has overall capacity, actual spare capacity for senior demand is generally identified. As such, no sites that are over, at, or close to capacity are considered to have actual spare capacity (at least 12 match equivalent sessions per season of spare capacity are required for an additional senior Sunday team to be accommodated) and neither are sites with unsecure tenure as future usage cannot be guaranteed.

Access to the square on a Sunday can be influenced by women and girls' softball activity on the outfields, meaning the square cannot be used whilst the outfield is in use.

There is actual spare capacity to accommodate additional match play demand on Sundays in Oldham at two sites. These sites can collectively accommodate three additional team in total.

Table 4.19: Sites with actual spare capacity to accommodate senior Sunday cricket

Site ID	Site	Capacity rating	Number of additional teams	Actual spare capacity required for additional teams
4	Austerlands Cricket Club	37	2	24
21	Crompton Cricket Club	15	1	12

The East Analysis Area has the most actual spare capacity totalling 24 match equivalent sessions a season, followed by the North Analysis Area with 12 match equivalent session a season.

Table 4.20: Actual spare capacity for senior cricket (Sunday) by analysis area

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)
Central	-
East	24
North	12
South	-
West	-
Oldham	36

Midweek cricket - spare capacity

For midweek cricket, most squares with spare capacity have actual spare capacity for an increase in demand. This is because usually most of the demand is from junior matches which are generally played during midweek, where matches can be spread across numerous days, meaning capacity is not limited to two teams.

For a square to have actual spare capacity for junior cricket, it must not be poor quality, have secure tenure, not be overplayed and have at least six match equivalent sessions per season of spare capacity, the average number of home matches an additional junior team would play.

Furthermore, a square is not considered to have capacity for an increase in demand if it is already used by six midweek teams or more, as availability is then assumed to be limited. On average, clubs are able to play junior fixtures on three nights per week, with other nights reserved for other activity such as square remediation/preparation, training activity or All Stars and Dynamos cricket activity.

There is actual spare capacity to accommodate additional match play demand midweek in Oldham at five sites. These five sites can collectively accommodate 12 additional teams in total.

Table 4.21: Sites with actual spare capacity to accommodate midweek cricket

Site ID	Site	Capacity rating	Number of additional teams	Actual spare capacity required for additional teams
4	Austerlands Cricket Club	37	6	36
21	Crompton Cricket Club	35	2	12
29	Failsworth Macedonia Cricket Club	9	1	6
34	Friarmere Cricket Club	15	2	12
37	Glodwick Cricket Club	7	1	6

Total actual spare capacity midweek equates to 72 match equivalent sessions per season with most of this being located in the East Analysis Area, followed by 12 match equivalent sessions in the North Analysis Area. No actual spare capacity is identified in the West Analysis Area.

Table 4.22: Actual spare capacity for midweek cricket by analysis area

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)
Central	6
East	48
North	12
South	6
West	-
Oldham	72

Overplay

Overplay translates to a site accommodating more demand than it can sustain based on the number of wickets provided and the quality of the square.

In Oldham, 104 wickets are overplayed across seven sites equating to 368 match equivalent sessions a season.

Where overplay is identified this is largely due to junior teams playing a high number of games on the main squares however, it should be noted that junior cricket does not impact the square like adult cricket.

This is the case at Greenfield CC with junior cricket amounting to 44 match equivalent sessions a season, Royton CC with junior cricket amounting to 65 matches equivalent sessions a season and 48 match equivalent sessions a season for junior cricket at Shaw CC.

Additionally, there are three sites which are used by nine nomadic clubs which has increased shortfalls at Oldham Cricket Club, Saddleworth Cricket Tennis and Bowling Club and Uppermill Cricket Club.

Table 4.23: Summary of overplay

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Overplay (matches per season)
40	Greenfield Cricket Club	East	**58**
45	Heyside Cricket Club	North	**4**
62	Moorside Cricket & Bowling Club	East	**9**
73	Oldham Cricket Club	East	**28**
85	Royton Cricket Club	North	**59**
88	Saddleworth Cricket Tennis and Bowling Club	East	**77**
93	Shaw Cricket Club	North	**55**
111	Uppermill Sports Club	East	**64**
119	Woodhouses Cricket Club	South	**4**
137	Springhead Cricket Club	East	**10**
-	**-**	**Total**	**368**

4.5: Supply and demand analysis

Senior cricket capacity balance (Saturday)

The below looks at actual spare capacity during the peak period (Saturday) for senior cricket against overplay.

For actual spare capacity, please note that this is converted from the number of squares to match equivalent sessions. This is calculated by using the average number of matches played per season by senior teams (12) multiplied by the number of additional teams that can be fielded at peak time (one team per 0.5 squares that are available). The entirety of spare capacity available at each site is not used as this number of matches may not be able to be accommodated at peak time (the maximum amount of spare capacity that can be accommodated on one square at peak time is 24 match equivalent sessions per season).

Table 4.24: Capacity balance of grass cricket squares for senior cricket

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total
Central	-	-	
East	-	246	**246**
North	-	118	**118**
South	-	4	**4**
West	-	-	
Oldham	**-**	**368**	**368**

Table 4.25: Future supply and demand position for grass cricket squares for senior cricket (Saturday)

Analysis area	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Oldham	**368**	60	**428**

There is a current overall shortfall of 368 match equivalent sessions per season on grass wicket squares in Oldham on Saturdays. Shortfalls are currently evident in the East, North and South analysis areas. After considering future demand, the shortfall increases to 428 match equivalent sessions per week.

Senior cricket capacity balance (Sunday)

The table below looks at actual spare capacity on Sunday for cricket against overplay and identified future demand. For this, actual spare capacity is considered in multiples of 12 based on the average number of matches played by existing Sunday teams.

Table 4.26: Capacity balance of grass cricket squares for Sunday cricket

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total
Central	-	-	
East	24	246	**222**
North	12	118	**106**
South	-	4	**4**
West	-	-	
Oldham	36	**368**	**332**

Table 4.27: Future supply and demand position for grass cricket squares for senior cricket (Sunday)

Analysis area	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Oldham	**332**	0	**332**

There is a current and future overall shortfall of 332 match equivalent sessions per season on grass wicket squares in Oldham on Sundays. Shortfalls are currently evident in the East, North and South analysis areas.

Junior cricket capacity balance

For junior cricket, most squares with spare capacity have actual spare capacity for an increase in demand. This is because junior matches are generally played during midweek, where matches can be spread across numerous days, meaning capacity is not limited to two teams.

For a square to have actual spare capacity for junior cricket, it must not be poor quality or have unsecure tenure and it must not be overplayed; at least six match equivalent sessions of spare capacity are required for an additional junior team to be accommodated (the average number of matches junior teams play per season). Furthermore, a square is not considered to have capacity for an increase in demand if it is already used by six midweek teams or more as availability is then assumed to be limited (on average, clubs are able to play junior fixtures on three nights per week, with other nights reserved for other activity such as All Stars).

Table 4.28: Capacity balance of grass cricket squares for Midweek cricket

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total
Central	6	-	**6**
East	48	246	**198**
North	12	118	**106**
South	6	4	**2**
West	-	-	
Oldham	72	**368**	**296**

Table 4.29: Future supply and demand position for grass cricket squares for senior cricket (Midweek)

Analysis area	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Oldham	**296**	30	**326**

There is a current overall shortfall of 296 match equivalent sessions per season on grass wicket squares in Oldham for midweek cricket. Shortfalls are currently evident in the East and North analysis area with actual spare capacity identified in the Central and South analysis areas. After considering future demand, the shortfall increases to 326 match equivalent sessions per season.

4.6: Conclusion

In Oldham, there is currently insufficient capacity of natural turf cricket squares to meet current demand for club cricket at a Borough wide level on Saturdays, Sundays and midweek. When accounting for future demand for senior and junior cricket in Oldham shortfalls are exacerbated further.

It should be noted that within Oldham, a large amount of the overplay is due to the larger clubs in the Borough (Greenfield CC, Royton CC and Shaw CC) having a high amount of demand on their individual sites. Additionally, there are three sites which are used by nine nomadic clubs which has increased shortfalls at Oldham Cricket Club, Saddleworth Cricket Tennis and Bowling Club and Uppermill Cricket Club. This is coupled with the fact that these sites are standard quality and as such there is limited opportunity to increase capacity on existing sites. The need for an increase in natural turf squares will be explore further with the Strategy & Action Plan.

Table 4.30: Capacity balance of grass cricket squares summary

Peak time period	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Saturday	**-**	**368**	**368**	60	**428**
Sunday	**36**	**368**	**332**	0	**332**
Midweek	**72**	**368**	**296**	30	**326**

Supply and demand summary

- **Overall, there is currently insufficient capacity of natural turf cricket squares to meet current demand for club cricket at a Borough wide level on Saturdays, Sundays and midweek.**
- **When accounting for future demand for senior and junior cricket in Oldham shortfalls are exacerbated further.**

Supply summary

- In total, there are 17 grass wicket squares in Oldham, all of which, are available for community use.
- There are nine non turf pitches (NTPs) in Oldham. Four accompany existing squares at club sites and five are located as standalone facilities.
- Hollinwood Sports Club (South Analysis Area) previously had a grass cricket square maintained. The square consisted of 10 wickets and has not been maintained since *circa* 2018, however the site is still actively used for rugby league activity.
- All community clubs playing within Oldham have secure tenure at their respective home sites.
- The audit of grass wicket cricket squares in Oldham found five (29%) to be good quality and 12 (71%) to be of standard quality. None are assessed as poor quality.
- The audit of ancillary facilities at community available grass pitch cricket sites in Oldham determines that six squares (35%) are accompanied by good quality provision, nine squares (53%) are accompanied by standard quality provision and two squares (12%) have poor quality supporting ancillary provision located at Greenfield Cricket Club and Royton Cricket Club.

Demand summary

- In Oldham, there are 17 clubs generating 63 senior men's teams, 13 senior women's teams and 51 junior boys' teams.
- Most teams in Oldham play in the East Analysis Area which accommodates 61 teams (48%), followed by the North Analysis Area with 39 teams (31%). The least number of teams is in the Central and West analysis areas with eight teams (6%) respectively.
- There are 10 additional teams expected to be generated by population growth alone for Oldham.
- Of the responding clubs in Oldham, four quantified its aspirations to increase levels of participation. This equates to a total predicted growth of one senior men's, three senior women's, one junior boys' and one junior girls' team.

PART 5: RUGBY LEAGUE

5.1: Introduction

The Rugby Football League (RFL) is the governing body for rugby league in Britain and Ireland. It administers the England national rugby league team, the Challenge Cup, Super League, and the Championships which form the professional and semi-professional structure of the game structure in the UK. The RFL also administers the amateur and junior game across the country in association with the British Amateur Rugby League Association (BARLA).

Most community club rugby league is played throughout the summer season (from February to October). However, rugby league is considered a winter season sport within schools, colleges and universities and therefore pitch provision for matches and training can also be required throughout the winter months.

Senior rugby league is played on a pitch measuring 100 x 68 metres. The preferred pitch size for U7s, U8s and U9s is 60 x 40 metres, whereas for U10s and U11s it is 80 x 30 metres, with U12s and above generally playing on senior pitches. Teams from U7s to U11s are known as primary teams, whilst teams from U12s to U18s known as junior teams.

Consultation

There are seven rugby league clubs located in Oldham. Of these, four have responded to consultation requests, Higginshaw, Limehurst Lions, Oldham RLFC, Oldham St Annes and Saddleworth Rangers the latter being met with face to face. The current response rate from rugby league clubs is currently 71%.

Table 5.1: Summary of consultation

Clubs	Responded?
Fitton Hill Bulldogs	No
Higginshaw	Yes
Limehurst Lions	Yes
Oldham RLFC	Yes
Oldham St Annes	Yes
Saddleworth Rangers	Yes
Waterhead Warriors	No

5.2: Supply

There are 18 rugby league pitches identified in Oldham across 12 sites. Of these, 15 pitches across 10 sites are available for community use, with the pitch at Oldham RLFC Training Ground and Boundary Park unavailable for community use with the latter being the home venue of Oldham RLFC, a professional club which following promotion from the Betfred League One will compete in the Championship next season (2025).

The largest provision of rugby league pitches is identified in the East Analysis Area, with this containing seven pitches available to the community. In contrast, the Central Analysis Area offers just one junior rugby league pitch at Oldham Edge.

Table 5.2: Summary of grass rugby league pitches available to the community

Analysis area	No. of senior pitches	No of junior pitches
Central	-	1
East	7	-
North	2	2
South	2	1
West	-	-
Oldham	**11**	**4**

The community available pitches are generally well spread across the analysis areas, although the West Analysis Area has no rugby league pitches. Most rugby league pitches are classified as being senior size (11).

Figure 5.1 highlights all rugby league pitches currently within Oldham, regardless of community use. For a key to the map, see Table 5.4.

Figure 5.1: Location of rugby league pitches within Oldham

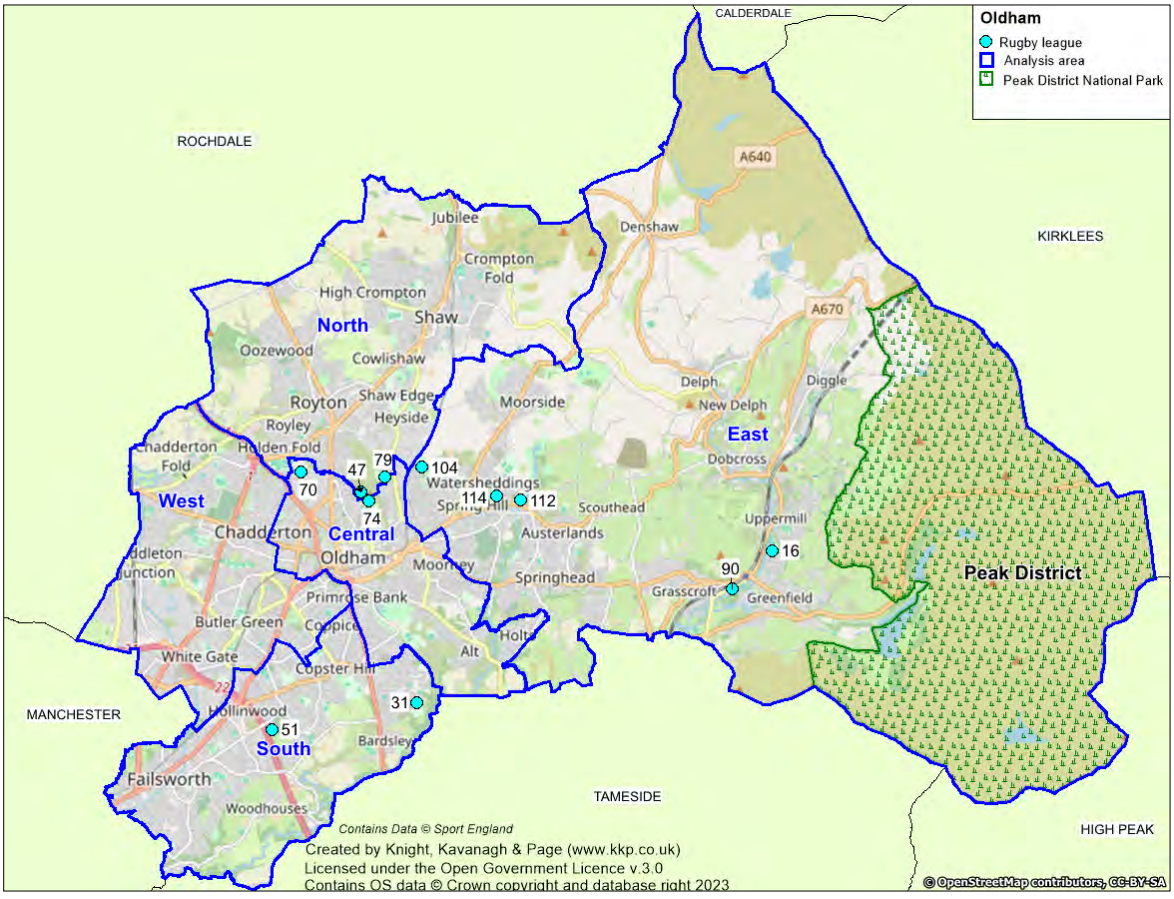


Table 5.3: Rugby league sites in Oldham

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Clubs playing at pitches	Notes of ownership/ management
16	Churchill Playing Fields	East	Saddleworth Rangers	Rent from the Council
31	Fitton Hill Bulldogs Community Sports	South	Fitton Hill Bulldogs	Rent from the Council
47	Higginshaw ARLFC (Sara Moor Pitch)	North	Higginshaw	Lease agreement from the Council until 2045
51	Hollinwood Sports Club	South	Limehurst Lions	Rent from Hollinwood Cricket Club[17]
70	Boundary Park	Central	Oldham RLFC	Lease agreement
74	Oldham Edge	Central	Higginshaw	Lease agreement from the Council
79	Oldham St Annes Amateur Rugby League Football Club	North	Oldham St Annes	Lease agreement from the Council
90	Saddleworth Rangers ARLFC	East	Saddleworth Rangers	Owned by the Club
114	Waterhead Park	East	Waterhead Warriors	Rent from the Council
159	Oldham RLFC Training Ground	East	Oldham RLFC	*Unknown*

Security of tenure

Tenure of sites in Oldham is generally secure i.e. through a long-term lease or a guarantee that the pitch will continue to be provided over the next three years, with most sites ensuring community use is available.

Pitch quality

The quality of rugby league pitches in Oldham have been assessed via a combination of site visits, carrying out non-technical assessments as determined by the RFL (undertaken in July 2024), and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- Good.
- Standard.
- Poor.

Pitch quality influences the carrying capacity of a site; often pitches lack the drainage and maintenance necessary to sustain high levels of use. It is likely that pitches that receive little or no ongoing repair or off season remedial work will be assessed as poor, therefore limiting the number of games able to take place each week without it having a detrimental effect on quality. Conversely, well maintained pitches which are tended to regularly are likely to be a higher standard and capable of taking a number of matches without a significant reduction in surface quality.

Private sites (e.g. sports clubs) can often offer better quality facilities than Council and school playing pitches as such sports clubs tend to have dedicated ground staff or volunteers working on pitches regularly during the week.

[17] It should be noted that Hollinwood CC has folded however, it still manages the facilities.

Also, private sites are often secured by fencing which prevents unofficial use whilst council pitches are generally located within parks and open spaces, regularly used by the public. The table below, summarises the quality of pitches that are available for community use for rugby league in Oldham.

Table 5.4: Pitch quality ratings for community use rugby league pitches

Pitch type	Good	Standard	Poor
Senior pitches	1	6	4
Junior pitches	0	2	2

In total, one pitch is rated as good quality (7%), eight as standard quality (53%) and six are deemed to be poor quality (40%). The table below provides a further site by site breakdown.

Table 5.5: Site quality ratings

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of pitches	Pitch type	Sports lighting?	Quality rating
16	Churchill Playing Fields	East	Yes	1	Senior	No	Poor
31	Fitton Hill Bulldogs Community Sports	South	Yes	1	Senior	No	Standard
47	Higginshaw ARLFC (Sara Moor Pitch)	North	Yes	1	Senior	No	Standard
51	Hollinwood Sports Club	South	Yes	1	Senior	Yes (Partially)	Poor
51	Hollinwood Sports Club	South	Yes	1	Junior	No	Poor
70	Boundary Park	Central	No	1	Senior	Yes	Good
74	Oldham Edge	Central	Yes	1	Junior	No	Poor
79	Oldham St Annes Amateur Rugby League Football Club	North	Yes	1	Senior	No	Standard
79	Oldham St Annes Amateur Rugby League Football Club	North	Yes	1	Junior	Yes	Standard
79	Oldham St Annes Amateur Rugby League Football Club	North	Yes	1	Junior	No	Standard
90	Saddleworth Rangers ARLFC	East	Yes	1	Senior	Yes	Good
104	Stoneleigh Park	East	Yes	2	Senior	No	Standard
113	Waterhead Academy (Counthill)	East	Yes	2	Senior	No	Poor
114	Waterhead Park	East	Yes	1	Senior	No	Standard
159	Oldham RLFC Training Ground	East	No	2	Senior	No	Standard

Of responding clubs, the following two raise issues relating the quality of pitches.

Saddleworth Rangers highlight an issue with the lack of rugby league pitches in Oldham for both matches and training. It currently uses the pitch located at Churchill Playing Fields as well as its home ground (Saddleworth Rangers ARLFC) which is poor quality due to drainage issues and doesn't meet the needs of the Club.

Higginshaw ARLFC has received funding to support grounds maintenance and to improve pitch quality which is starting to improve the provision.

Additionally, Waterhead Warriors is currently working with the RFL to install perimeter fencing around its current site located at Waterhead Park.

Oldham RLFC has ambitions to invest in improving the facilities at Oldham RLFC Training Ground including the pitch provision and ancillary facilities. This is to support the growth of rugby league from grassroots to professional level as well as other sporting groups and community organisations.

Grass pitch maintenance fund[18]

Community Clubs and Foundations can now take advantage of the revolutionary Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund which is being delivered in partnership with the Premier League, The FA and Government's Football Foundation.

Over the next three years, £5 million of Sport England National Lottery funding will be made available via the Foundation to support the improvement of grass pitches in Rugby League's Community Clubs.

Upon submitting a PitchPower assessment, clubs will receive a bespoke maintenance plan from the Grounds Management Association (GMA) enabling them to access a six-year tapered grant, providing up to £3,600 for every 'match equivalent' pitch in the first two years and tapered down over the remaining period. This funding can be used to employ contractors and purchase materials to improve pitches over a 10-year period.

PitchPower Assessment

PitchPower (a technical assessment of quality) for rugby league began to be used in 2024 with the initial reports being produced towards the end of the season. More information surrounding PitchPower, and its functionality is available in Part 2: Football. The main difference for the analysis of cricket is that both the outfield and square are assessed for quality.

PitchPower assessments use a new five step Performance Quality Standard (PQS) rating system developed by the GMA, with the FF and Sport England agreeing alignment with the capacity guidance within the existing PPS guidance. This alignment is shown in the table below.

[18] Grass Pitch Fund (rugby-league.com)

Table 5.6: Agreed equivalent PPOSS quality rating for PQS ratings

PQS Rating	PPOSS Quality Rating
Poor	Poor
Basic	Standard
Good	Good
Advanced	Good
High	Good

In Oldham, five rugby league sites have received a PitchPower assessment. The findings of these in comparison to the PPOSS findings are shown in the table below.

Table 5.7: Summary of PitchPower findings compared to PPOSS quality ratings

Site ID	Site name	Club users	PitchPower rating	PPOSS rating
47	Higginshaw ARLFC (Sara Moor Pitch)	Higginshaw ARLFC	Good	Standard
90	Saddleworth Rangers ARLFC	Saddleworth Rangers ARLFC	Standard	Good
79	Oldham St Annes Amateur Rugby League Football Club	Oldham St Annes	Good	Standard
79	Oldham St Annes Amateur Rugby League Football Club	Oldham St Annes	Good	Standard
79	Oldham St Annes Amateur Rugby League Football Club	Oldham St Annes	Good	Standard
114	Waterhead Park	Waterhead Warriors	Basic	Standard
113	Waterhead Academy (Counthill Road)	Waterhead Warriors	Basic	Poor
113	Waterhead Academy (Counthill Road)	Waterhead Warriors	Basic	Poor

For reference the PitchPower quality scores will be the ones used in the pitch capacity analysis to follow.

Ancillary facilities

Ancillary facilities including the condition of the clubhouse, changing accommodation, toilets, showers, medical room, car parking and boundary fencing.

Saddleworth Rangers ARLFC has recently submitted a planning application to build a two-story building on waste land next to the carpark which will include an additional function room on the top floor and the bottom floor will be a training room (e.g. wrestle room). Additionally, it's just built an outdoor bar funded by the Club itself and highlight doing as much as possible to provide its own income opportunities.

The table below summarises all ancillary facilities including changing provision used by rugby league clubs based in Oldham.

Table 5.8: Rugby league changing rooms summary

Site ID	Site name	Quality rating	Comments on changing rooms/clubhouses
31	Fitton Hill Bulldogs Community Sports	Standard	Standard quality portacabin which includes changing provision. No dedicated women's and girls' areas.
47	Higginshaw ARLFC (Sara Moor Pitch)	Standard	Standard quality changing provision onsite with the clubhouse in need of modernisation. The Club is looking to develop new kitchen facilities and add an additional changing room. It also reports accommodating additional space that could be developed into additional female changing rooms if demand was there.
51	Hollinwood Sports Club	Poor	Changing rooms have reached the end of their lifespan and needs updating. Additionally, there is a lack of clubhouse provision for after matches. No dedicated women's and girls' changing rooms.
79	Oldham St Annes Amateur Rugby League Football Club	Good	Clubhouse and changing facilities are all good quality, well used and adequate for club requirements.
70	Boundary Park	Good	Stadia site, facilities are good quality.
90	Saddleworth Rangers ARLFC	Good	Clubhouse has been recently updated and is well used and adequate for club requirements. Changing rooms are also good quality, however, there are no dedicated women's and girl's changing rooms
113	Waterhead Academy (Counthill Road)	Poor	Changing facilities are poor quality and are not adequate for club requirements. No dedicated women's and girls' changing rooms.
114	Waterhead Park	Standard	Clubhouse and changing facilities are all standard quality, well used and adequate for club requirements. No dedicated women's and girls' changing rooms.

Most sites provide no dedicated women and girls changing rooms. At present this currently isn't an issue with only one junior girls team provided across Oldham, however, with the rising popularity of the sport within this demographic, there is a potential need to upgrade facilities to better accommodate demand given participation is increasing across the Country.

Oldham RLFC are planning to work with Limehurt Lions to help improve the facilities at Hollinwood Sports Club

5.3: Demand

Demand for rugby league in Oldham tends to fall within the categories of organised competitive play and organised training. As the majority of rugby league play takes place during the summer period, when the nights are lighter, a significant amount of training takes play on pitches in addition to the competitive match play.

Competitive play

A total of 65 teams are identified as playing competitive rugby league in Oldham. This consists of 11 senior men's, 34 junior boys' teams, one junior girls' team and 19 primary teams.

The table below shows that the East Analysis Area is where the most teams have their competitive pitch located (36 teams), whilst the Central Analysis Areas accommodating the least number of teams with only one. There are no teams currently based in the West Analysis Area.

Table 5.9: Summary of where competitive teams play in Oldham by analysis area

Analysis area	Senior	Junior	Primary	Total
Central	1	-	-	**1**
East	5	20	11	**36**
North	3	8	6	**17**
South	2	7	2	**11**
West	-	-	-	**-**
Oldham	**11**	**35**	**19**	**65**

Table 5.10: Club by club summary of teams

Club	Senior men	Senior women	Junior boys	Junior girls	Primary (mixed)	Total
Fitton Hill Bulldogs	1	-	1	-	2	4
Higginshaw	1	-	-	-	1	2
Limehurst Lions	1	-	6	-	-	7
Oldham RLFC	1	-	7	-	-	8
Oldham St Annes	2	-	8	-	5	15
Saddleworth Rangers	3	-	6		6	15
Waterhead Warriors	2	-	6	1	5	14
Total	**11**	**0**	**34**	**1**	**19**	**65**

Women and girls' rugby league

Waterhead Warriors is currently the only club in Oldham to provide a girls' team. Although there are currently no other women or girls' teams provided in Oldham it should be noted that Saddleworth Rangers is in the process of creating a girls' team for next season with 20 girls currently training.

Higginshaw ARLFC also aspires to create a junior girls' team by next season.

Master's rugby league

Masters' rugby league is a derivative version of the sport aimed at players over the age of 35. It has a social emphasis and focus on providing playing opportunities for older players and as such remains non-competitive with no score kept. Masters' rugby league is typically played as part of a festival format. In Oldham, Saddleworth Rangers currently accommodate one master's team.

Training

Nationally, 3G pitches are mainly required for winter training and to reduce overplay on grass pitches. Once grass pitches are at a standard to sustain more usage this becomes the preferred option for match play and training. Conversely, junior training is often preferred to take place on 3G pitches but accessing timeslots can be challenging.

Most rugby league teams in Oldham train on their match pitches with some usage taking place on 3G pitches.

Of the responding clubs, Saddleworth Rangers accesses training provision across multiple sites with 3G facilities costing a significant amount including, Saddleworth School, Saddleworth Leisure Centre, The Hathershaw College and Greenhill Academy. It should be noted that non-contact training activity takes place at these sites due to the pitches not being certified for contact rugby league.
Limehurst Lions and Higginshaw ARLFC both report using their competitive match pitches for training.

All responding clubs state there isn't enough grass rugby league provision in Oldham to accommodate both matches and training.

Displaced demand

Displaced demand is existing demand that is being met by provision outside of the Oldham boundary. There are a number of reasons why displacement may occur such as a central venue league, where one location/site is used as the venue for all competitive fixtures with no teams having home or away fixtures or because teams choose to hire pitches outside of the boundary due to pitch quality or hire costs.

Currently, no Oldham based teams travelling outside of Oldham to access pitches.

Future demand

Future demand can be defined in two ways, through participation increases and using population forecasts. In addition, the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan document will contain housing growth scenarios that will estimate the additional demand for rugby league arising from housing developments within Oldham.

Population increase

Based on population projections to 2041 for Oldham (the period to which this assessment projects population based future demand), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) can estimate the likely additional demand for grass rugby pitches that will arise from any growth.

Using the current and future populations in each of the relevant age groups together with the current team numbers, team generation rates (TGRs) have been established to understand how much growth is required to establish one new team.

Table 5.11: Authority wide team generation rates

Age group	Team generation rate	Number of new teams generated by the new population	Number of new teams generated by the new population - rounded figure	Match equivalent session [19]
Men (19-45yrs)	1:3,778	**0.90**	1	0.5
Women (19-45yrs)	0	**0**	0	-
Boys (13-18yrs)	1:436	**2.22**	2	1
Girls (13-18yrs)	1:11,332	**0.08**	0	-
Mixed (7-12yrs)	1:910	**1.56**	2	1

As seen in the table above, five teams expect to be generated (equating to 2.5 match equivalent sessions per week) are authority wide and not accredited to any analysis area, they will be added onto the overall supply and demand total for each pitch type within the 'Supply and demand' section later. It should be noted that growth is expected to exceed what is identified above due to the high presence of rugby league in the North.

Participation increase

Of responding clubs, all three clubs highlight plans to increase membership amounting to five teams in total. The amount to which each club want to increase is listed in the table below.

Table 5.12: Future demand aspirations

Club	Senior	Junior	Primary	Total
Limehurst Lions	-	-	1	1
Higginshaw	-	3	-	3
Saddleworth Rangers	-	1	-	1
Total	**0**	**4**	**1**	**5**

The impact of this potential growth will be run as a scenario in the Strategy and Action Plan to follow.

5.4: Capacity analysis

The capacity for 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. In extreme circumstances it can result in the inability of a pitch to cater for all or certain types of play during the peak period and off peak times.

The carrying capacity of a pitch is dependent upon the quality of a pitch which is outlined below:

Category	Capacity
Good	3 matches per week
Standard	2 matches per week
Poor	1 match per week

[19] Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, one team accounts to 0.5 match equivalent sessions on their relevant pitch type.

The next step is to ascertain whether or not any identified 'potential capacity' can be deemed 'actual 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 takes place but are difficult to quantify on a weekly basis. Where actual spare capacity exists it is highlighted in Table 5.14.

The peak period

In order to fully establish actual spare capacity, the peak period needs to be established. As the majority of competitive rugby league takes place on senior rugby league pitches the peak period is considered to be Saturday PM and Sunday AM.

Education sites

To account for curricular/extra-curricular use of education pitches it is deemed that usage should be adjusted and increased by one match equivalent session per week, per pitch. The only time this does not apply is when a school does not use its pitches at all and the sole use is that made by the community.

The table below identifies the way capacity and overplay is represented in Table 5.14.

Table 5.13: Spare capacity examples

Spare capacity in peak period (examples)	Explanation of spare capacity
1	If the cell is highlighted in green with a number, it means that the pitch(es) have actual spare capacity at peak time.
0	If the cell has a 0 in it, this means that the pitch(es) is/are played to capacity, either overall or during the peak period.
1	If the cell has a number in it but is not highlighted, it means the pitch has spare capacity in the peak period; however, this is discounted. This is most commonly due to unsecure tenure and/or poor pitch quality but can also be due to the site being unavailable to the community.
1	If the cell is highlighted in red with a number, it means that the pitch(es) are overplayed.

Table 5.14: Rugby league capacity table

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Available for community use?	Type of Tenure	Management	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Sports lighting?	Quality rating	Match equivalent sessions of play (per week)	Recommended site capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Comments
16	Churchill Playing Fields	East	Yes	Secure	Local Authority	Senior	1	No	Poor	4	1	3	Pitch is overplayed by three MES per week. Used for both senior and junior matches by Saddleworth Rangers.
31	Fitton Hill Bulldogs Community Sports	South	Yes	Secure	Local Authority	Senior	1	No	Standard	4	2	2	Pitch is overplayed by two MES per week. Used for both matches and training by Fitton Hill Bulldogs.
47	Higginshaw ARLFC (Sara Moor Pitch)	North	Yes	Secure	Sports Club	Senior	1	No	Good	1.5	3	1.5	Pitch is used by Higginshaw ARLFC for both matches and training.
51	Hollinwood Sports Club	South	Yes	Secure	Sports Club	Senior	1	Yes (Partially)	Poor	2	1	1	Pitch is overplayed by one MES per week. Used for both matches and training by Limehurst Lions.
51	Hollinwood Sports Club	South	Yes	Secure	Sports Club	Junior	1	No	Poor	3.5	1	2.5	Pitch is overplayed by 2.5 MES per week. Used for both matches and training by Limehurst Lions.
70	Boundary Park	Central	No	Secure	Sports Club	Senior	1	Yes	Good	0.5	3	2.5	Actual spare capacity discounted due to being unavailable for community use.
74	Oldham Edge	Central	Yes	Secure	Local Authority	Junior	1	No	Poor	1.5	1	0.5	Pitch is used by Higginshaw ARLFC for both matches and training.
79	Oldham St Annes Amateur Rugby League Football Club	North	Yes	Secure	Sports Club	Senior	1	No	Good	2.5	3	0.5	Pitch is used by Oldham St Annes ARLFC for both matches and training.
79	Oldham St Annes Amateur Rugby League Football Club	North	Yes	Secure	Sports Club	Junior	1	Yes	Good	4.5	3	1.5	Pitch is overplayed by 1.5 MES per week. Used for both matches and training by Oldham St Annes.
79	Oldham St Annes Amateur Rugby League Football Club	North	Yes	Secure	Sports Club	Junior	1	No	Good	4	3	1	Pitch is overplayed by one MES per week. Used for both matches and training by Oldham St Annes.
90	Saddleworth Rangers ARLFC	East	Yes	Secure	Sports Club	Senior	1	Yes	Standard	3.5	2	1.5	Pitch is overplayed by 1.5 MES per week. Used for both senior and junior matches by Saddleworth Rangers.
104	Stoneleigh Park	East	Yes	Secure	Local Authority	Senior	2	No	Standard	-	4	4	Spare capacity of four MES per week.
113	Waterhead Academy (Counthill Road)	East	Yes	Unsecure	Education	Senior	2	No	Standard	6.5	4	2.5	Pitch is overplayed by 2.5 MES per week. Used for both matches and training by Waterhead Warriors.
114	Waterhead Park	East	Yes	Secure	Local Authority	Senior	1	No	Standard	4	2	2	Pitch is overplayed by two MES per week. Used for both matches and training by Waterhead Warriors.
159	Oldham RLFC Training Ground	East	No	*Unknown*	Sports Club	Senior	2	No	Standard	3.5	4	0.5	Actual spare capacity discounted due to being unavailable for community use.

Actual spare capacity

The next step is to ascertain whether or not any identified 'potential capacity' can be deemed 'actual 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 other activities that are difficult to quantify on a weekly basis.

Table 5.15: Actual spare capacity

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Spare capacity (MES)	MES available in the peak period	Comments
47	Higginshaw ARLFC (Sara Moor Pitch)	North	Senior	1	0.5	-	No actual spare capacity during the peak period.
70	Boundary Park	Central	Senior	1	2.5	-	Actual spare capacity discounted due to being unavailable for community use.
79	Oldham St Annes Amateur Rugby League Football Club	North	Senior	1	0.5	-	No actual spare capacity during the peak period.
104	Stoneleigh Park	East	Senior	2	4	2	Two MES of actual spare capacity.

Despite five pitches across four sites displaying a total of 7.5 match equivalent session of potential capacity, only one site is considered to have capacity for additional demand during the peak period located at Stoneleigh Park (East Analysis Area). There are two match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity during the peak period.

Overplay

A total of 11 pitches across eight sites are overplayed by a combined 17.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

Pitches which are identified as being overplayed is largely due to high levels of demand for both matches and training combined with poor pitch quality.

Table 5.16: Overplay

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of pitches	Pitch size	Capacity rating
16	Churchill Playing Fields	East	1	Senior	3
31	Fitton Hill Bulldogs Community Sports	South	1	Senior	2

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of pitches	Pitch size	Capacity rating
51	Hollinwood Sports Club	South	1	Senior	1
51	Hollinwood Sports Club	South	1	Junior	2.5
74	Oldham Edge	Central	1	Junior	0.5
79	Oldham St Annes Amateur Rugby League Football Club	North	1	Junior	1.5
79	Oldham St Annes Amateur Rugby League Football Club	North	1	Junior	1
90	Saddleworth Rangers ARLFC	East	1	Senior	1.5
113	Waterhead Academy (Counthill Road)	East	2	Senior	2.5
114	Waterhead Park	East	1	Senior	2
-	-	-	**Total**	-	**17.5**

Most overplay is identified in the East Analysis Area amounting to nine match equivalent sessions per week.

Table 5.17: Summary of overplay by analysis area

Analysis area	Overplay
Central	0.5
East	9
North	2.5
South	5.5
West	-
Oldham	**17.5**

5.5: Supply and demand analysis

Having considered supply and demand, the table below identifies the overall spare capacity and overplay in each of the analysis areas for senior rugby league pitches based on match equivalent sessions per week.

Table 5.18: Supply and demand balance of rugby league pitches in Oldham

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total
Central	-	0.5	0.5
East	2	9	7
North	-	2.5	2.5
South	-	5.5	5.5
West	-	-	-
Oldham	**2**	**17.5**	**15.5**

There is a current, overall shortfall of 15.5 match equivalent sessions per week with specific shortfalls in the Central, East, North and South analysis areas. Only the West Analysis Areas is played to capacity.

Table 5.19: Future supply and demand balance of rugby league pitches in Oldham

Analysis area	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Oldham	**15.5**	2.5	**18**

After considering future demand from population growth, existing shortfalls are expected to be exacerbated to 18 match equivalent sessions per week.

5.6: Conclusion

Overall, there is an insufficient supply of rugby league pitches in Oldham to meet current demand. The Central, East, North and South analysis areas are overplayed due to poor quality pitches combined with heavy usage for both matches and training whilst only the West Analysis Areas is played to capacity. When considering future demand, shortfalls are expected to be exacerbated.

Additionally, the supporting infrastructure doesn't give adequate allowances to support clubs to expand and grow for formats of the game outside of traditional senior men's and junior boys' rugby.

Future demand analysis

As the anticipated future growth from population increases are deemed minimal, especially considering the popularity of rugby league in Oldham, an alternative supply and demand table is provided below to give a more representative analysis.

The table identifies future demand from population increases compared to a potential growth of 44% from the identified 2024 demand figures. This is based on evidence provided above in the Demand section of historical average growth for each of the demographics (Senior/junior/mini) since the 2017 study.

It also assumes that the projected future growth would be based on the relevant pitch types, for example growth for senior teams on senior pitches, growth for junior teams on junior pitches and mini teams on mini pitches.

A growth of 44% for senior teams amounts an additional five teams (2.5 match equivalent sessions), 15 junior teams (7.5 match equivalent sessions) and eight mini teams (four match equivalent sessions). It should be noted that this doesn't specify whether the demand is male or female and is just an overall growth figure.

Table 5.20: Overall supply and demand for grass rugby league pitches in Oldham with projected future demand comparison

Pitch type	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
2024				**TGRs**	
Senior pitches	2	12	**10**	0.5	**10.5**
Junior pitches	-	5.5	**5.5**	1	**6.5**
Mini pitches	-	-	**-**	1	**1**
2024				**44% increase**	
Senior pitches	2	12	**10**	2.5	**12.5**
Junior pitches	-	5.5	**5.5**	7.5	**13**
Mini pitches	-	-	**-**	4	**4**

As anticipated, the future shortfall across all pitch types would worsen when using an average increase (44%) when compared to the minimal amounts of growth anticipated from just population increases alone. It believed that this provides a more accurate representation of future supply and demand balance.

Supply and demand summary

- **There is insufficient supply of rugby league pitches in Oldham to meet demand.**
- **Overall, in Oldham there is a current shortfall of 15.5 match equivalent sessions and a future shortfall of 18 match equivalent sessions per week.**

Supply summary

- There are 18 rugby league pitches identified in Oldham across 12 sites. Of these, 15 pitches across 10 sites are available for community use.
- The largest offering of rugby league pitches is identified in the East Analysis Area, with this containing seven pitches available to the community. In contrast, the Central Analysis Area offers just one junior rugby league pitch at Oldham Edge.
- In total, one pitch is rated as good quality (7%), eight as standard quality (53%) and six are deemed to be poor quality (40%).
- In regard to ancillary facilities including changing provision used by rugby league clubs based in Oldham, three are assessed as good quality, three as standard quality and one as poor quality located at Hollinwood Sports Club.

Demand summary

- A total of 65 teams are identified as playing competitive rugby league in Oldham. This consists of 11 senior men's, 34 junior boy's teams, one junior girls' team and 19 primary teams.
- The East Analysis Area is where most teams have their match play pitch located (36 teams).
- There is currently only one junior girls' team provided in Oldham by Waterhead Warriors. It should be noted that Saddleworth Rangers is in the process of creating a girls' team with 20 girls' currently training. Furthermore, Higginshaw ARLFC aspires to create a junior girls' team by next season.
- Team generation rates applied to population growth (to 2041) predict an additional senior men's team, two junior boys and two additional mini mixed team to be generated, equating to an additional 2.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
- Of responding clubs, all three clubs highlight plans to increase membership amounting to five teams in total.
- There are two match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity during the peak period. However, eight pitches are overplayed by a combined 17.5 match equivalent sessions per week. The East Analysis Area has the highest level of overplay (nine match equivalent sessions).
- Pitches which are identified as being overplayed is largely due to high levels of demand combined with poor pitch quality.

PART 6: RUGBY UNION

6.1: Introduction

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) is split into four areas across the country with a workforce team that covers development, coaching, governance and competitions. As part of this, Club Developers and a team of community rugby coaches deliver core programmes for clubs across Oldham.

The RFU governs a variety of formats and programmes, including 15-aside, 10-aside, 7-aside and Tag rugby as well as the Touch Union programme. Its aim is to increase and retain participation within the game, with facilities needing to be appropriate, affordable and accessible in order to enable this.

Consultation

There is one club in Oldham, Oldham RUFU. The Club was consulted resulting in a 100% response rate. The response is used to inform this section of the report.

6.2: Supply

There are four grass rugby union pitches identified in Oldham across two sites. All four pitches are available for community use with only one pitch located in the North Analysis Area (Crompton House C of E School), which is available but unused.

Table 6.1: Supply of rugby union pitches in Oldham

Analysis area	Available	Available but unused	Unavailable	Total
Central	-	-	-	**0**
East	-	-	-	**0**
North	-	1	-	**1**
South	3	-	-	**3**
West	-	-	-	**0**
Oldham	**3**	**1**	**0**	**4**

Rugby union pitches are split between the North Analysis Area and South Analysis Area both accommodating four pitches. There is no rugby union provision located in the Central, East or West analysis areas.

There are no World Rugby (WR) compliant 3G pitches in Oldham with the nearest pitches located at Audenshaw High School (Tameside) and Burnage Rugby Football Club (Stockport).

All 3G pitches are covered in greater detail in Part 3: Third Generation Turf (3G) Artificial Pitches (AGPS), as well as later in this section.

The audit only identifies dedicated, line marked pitches with posts. For rugby union pitch dimension sizes please refer to Table 6.2 below.

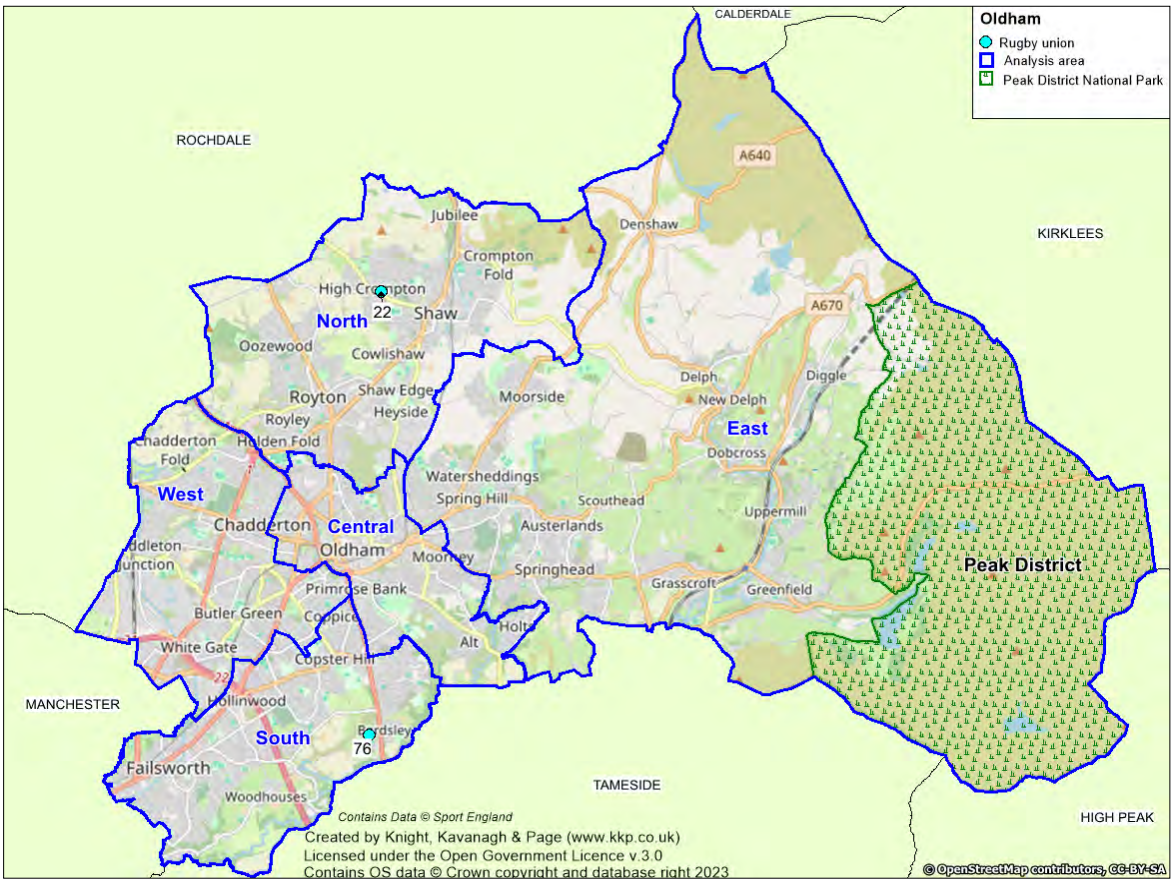
Table 6.2: Rugby union pitch dimensions

Age	Playing format	Maximum pitch dimensions (metres)[20]
U7	Age grade mixed	20 x 12
U8	Age grade mixed	45 x 22
U9	Age grade mixed	60 x 30
U10	Age grade mixed	60 x 35
U11	Age grade mixed	60 x 43
U12	Age grade mixed	60 x 43
U13	Age grade boys/girls	90 x 60 (60 x 43 for girls)
U14	Age grade boys/girls	100 x 70
U15	Age grade boys/girls	100 x 70
U16	Age grade boys/girls	100 x 70
U17	Age grade boys/girls	100 x 70
U18	Colts	100 x 70
Senior	Senior	100 x 70

Ownership/management

Oldham RUFC accesses one site which is located at Oldham Rugby Football Club. The Club has a freehold of its sites and therefore has secure tenure.

Figure 6.1: Map of rugby union pitch provision within Oldham



[20] *Recommended run off area for all pitch types requires five-metres each way and a minimum in-goal length of six metres.*

Pitch quality

The criteria for assessing rugby pitch quality looks at two key elements; the maintenance programme and the level of drainage on each pitch. An overall quality based on both drainage and maintenance can then be generated.

The quality of rugby union pitches has been assessed via a combination of site visits carried out January 2024 (using non-technical assessments as determined by the RFU) and user consultation.

The agreed rating for each pitch type also represents actions required to improve pitch quality. A breakdown of actions required based on the ratings can be seen below:

Table 6.3: Definition of maintenance categories

Category	Definition
M0	Action is significant improvements to maintenance programme
M1	Action is minor improvements to maintenance programme
M2	Action is no improvements to maintenance programme

Table 6.4: Definition of drainage categories

Category	Definition
D0	Action is pipe drainage system is needed on pitch
D1	Action is pipe drainage is needed on pitch
D2	Action is slit drainage is needed on pitch
D3	No action is needed on pitch drainage

Table 6.5: Quality ratings based on maintenance and drainage scores

Drainage	Poor (M0)	Adequate (M1)	Good (M2)
Natural Inadequate (D0)	Poor	Poor	Standard
Natural Adequate (D1)	Poor	Standard	Good
Pipe Drained (D2)	Standard	Standard	Good
Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	Standard	Good	Good

All community available pitches in Oldham are poor quality located at Crompton House C of E School and Oldham Rugby Football Club.

Table 6.6: Summary of rugby union pitch quality in Oldham

Analysis area	Good	Standard	Poor
Central	-	-	-
East	-	-	-
North	-	-	1
South	-	-	3
West	-	-	-
Oldham	**0**	**0**	**4**

The table overleaf shows quality ratings for each of the sites in the Borough based on non-technical site assessment scores and club feedback.

Table 6.7: Rugby union pitch quality ratings

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Ownership/ management	Community use	Non-technical assessment rating	Number of pitches	Sports lit?	Quality rating	Comments
22	Crompton House C of E School	North	Education	Yes	M0/D1	1	No	Poor	School based poor-quality pitch which receive basic levels of maintenance.
76	Oldham Rugby Football Club	South	Sports Club	Yes	M1/D0	1	No	Poor	One poor quality pitch used by Oldham RUFC, which is not sports lit. Pitch is used for competitive demand.
76	Oldham Rugby Football Club	South	Sports Club	Yes	M1/D0	1	Yes	Poor	One poor quality pitch used by Oldham RUFC, which is sports lit. Pitch is used for both competitive and training demand.
76	Oldham Rugby Football Club	South	Sports Club	Yes	M1/D0	1	Yes (Partially)	Poor	One pitch which is of poor quality and partially sports lit. Pitch is used for both competitive and training demand. Used by Oldham RUFC.

Ancillary facilities

Facilities at Oldham Rugby Football Club are generally considered by the Club to be of a good quality. It recently added an extension to the clubhouse which has provided an improvement in disability access. It also plans to provide wall partitions for separate female changing rooms with contained showers and toilets.

6.3: Demand

Competitive demand

There is one community rugby union club based in Oldham, providing a total of 14 teams. There are three senior teams, of which, one is women's. There are four age grade boys' teams, one dedicated age grade girls' teams and six mixed age grade teams.

Table 6.8: Summary of club demand (number of rugby union teams)

Club	Analysis area	Senior Men's (19+)	Senior Women's (19+)	Age Grade Boys' (13-17)	Age Grade Girls' (13-17)	Mixed Age Grade (6-12)
Oldham RUFC	South	2	1	4	1	6
-	**Totals**	**2**	**1**	**4**	**1**	**6**

Training

Training demand for rugby union, typically, takes place during the week (Monday – Friday), utilising sports lighting to accommodate this demand. This can add demand to match pitches and lead to a concentration of activity in specific areas. There can also be an issue with peak time capacity during this period to accommodate all midweek training demand from club teams, with rugby union clubs traditionally training on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday evenings.

Oldham RUFC utilises a partially sports lit grass pitch accompanied by a fully sports lit pitch to accommodate its entire training schedule. However, it should be noted that the six mini teams utilise the disused bowling green for their training demand.

Table 6.9: Summary of club training provision (sports lit)[21]

Site ID	Club	Site name	Sports lit training provision	MES per week
76	Oldham RUFC	Oldham Rugby Football Club	Partially sports lit pitch which accommodates age grade training.	2
76	Oldham RUFC	Oldham Rugby Football Club	Fully sports lit pitch which accommodates senior training.	3

[21] Shows only midweek demand for floodlit training provision. Some mini and junior training takes place on Sunday mornings when there is no fixture and there isn't a requirement for sports lighting.

Use of artificial pitches

The alternative to training on grass pitches is the use of 3G pitches. World Rugby (WR) produced the 'Performance Specification for artificial grass pitches for rugby', more commonly known as 'Regulation 22' that provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for rugby union. A WR compliant pitch also enables the transfer of match demand from grass pitches onto 3G pitches, which alleviates overplay of grass pitches and as a result protects quality.

Nationally, clubs with access to 3G pitches for training utilise them as a method of protecting grass pitches for matches and providing a high quality surface for full contact practice. Competitive play generally continues to take place on grass pitches, although there is occasional use of 3G pitches for fixtures in the case of grass pitch quality or capacity issues (especially during bad weather spells).

Currently, there are no WR compliant 3G pitches are identified in Oldham. Oldham RUFC has aspiration to convert the disused bowling green located at Oldham Rugby Football Club to a small sided 3G pitch for training.

Unmet, latent and displaced demand

Unmet demand is existing demand at clubs which is not able to access sufficient supply of pitches for match play or training, it is usually expressed, for example, where a team is already training but is unable to access a match pitch or where a league or club operates a waiting list. In comparison, latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision. There is no known unmet or latent demand in Authority.

Displaced demand refers to existing demand which is exported outside of the study area and any imported demand from neighbouring districts that accesses facilities within Oldham. This is often due to a lack of available facilities in other local authorities where such team or club is based. There is no identified competitive displaced demand of rugby union provision in Oldham.

Future demand

Future demand can be defined in two ways, through participation increases and using population forecasts. In addition, the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan document will contain housing growth scenarios that will estimate the additional demand for rugby union arising from housing developments within Oldham.

Population increases

Based on population projections to 2041 (the period to which this assessment projects population based future demand), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) can estimate the likely additional demand for grass rugby pitches that will arise from any growth.

Using the current and future populations in each of the relevant age groups together with the current team numbers, team generation rates (TGRs) have been established to understand how much growth is required to establish one new team.

For reference the current population of 242,171 will increase to 261,018 by 2041. The table below shows the number of new teams generated by the new population and the requisite match equivalent sessions.

Table 6.10: Authority wide team generation rates

Age group	Team generation rate	No. of new teams generated by the new population	No. of new teams generated by the new population - rounded figure	No. of match equivalent session [22]
Men (19-45yrs)	1:20778	**0.16**	0	-
Women (19-45yrs)	1:41441	**0.08**	0	-
Boys (13-18yrs)	1:2520	**0.33**	0	-
Girls (13-18yrs)	1:9612	**0.08**	0	-
Mixed (7-12yrs)	1:3454	**0.49**	0	-

As seen in the table above, no additional rugby teams are predicted to be generated via population growth alone.

Participation increases

Oldham RUFC indicate plans to increase the number of senior teams by one team following a decrease in this section over last couple of seasons.

With the women's rugby World Cup scheduled to be held in England in 2025, there is also an expectance that there will likely be a growth in women's and girls' demand due to increased awareness and initiatives aimed at establishing a legacy for the event.

Future demand summary

In the supply and demand analysis at the end of this section of the report, only future demand identified through participation increases is factored in. Future demand expressed by clubs is considered aspirational and may not be fully achieved. The preceding Strategy document will include a scenario to identify the impact it would have if this level of growth was realised.

The Strategy & Action Plan Report will also contain a housing growth scenario that will estimate the additional demand for rugby union arising from housing development.

The peak period

In order to fully establish actual spare capacity, the peak period needs to be established for all types of rugby. For senior men's teams' match demand, it is considered to be Saturday PM; and senior women's teams Sunday PM. Peak time for age grade rugby is Sunday AM.

[22] Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, one team accounts to 0.5 match equivalent sessions on their relevant pitch type.

6.4: Capacity analysis

The capacity for pitches to regularly accommodate 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 rugby. In extreme circumstances, it can result in the inability of a 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 union pitches, the following assumptions are applied to the site-by-site and pitch-by-pitch analysis:

- All sites that are or could be used for competitive rugby matches (regardless of whether this is secured community use) are included on the supply side.
- All competitive play is on marked pitches (except for when explicitly identified by the clubs).
- From U13s upwards, teams play 15 v 15 and use a full pitch.
- Mixed age grade teams (U6s-U12s) play on half of a pitch, meaning two matches and four teams can be accommodated at any one time; this means that play per week is set at 0.25 for each match played based on teams operating on a home and away basis.
- For senior and single gender age grade teams, the current level of play per week is set at 0.5 for each match played based on all teams operating on a home and away basis.
- Senior men's rugby generally takes place on Saturday afternoons.
- Senior women's rugby generally takes place on Sunday afternoons.
- Age grade rugby generally takes place on Sunday mornings.
- Training that takes place on marked pitches is reflected by the addition of match equivalent sessions to current usage levels.
- Internal use of school pitches is added to current play, as determined on a site-by-site basis depending on levels of activity.

As a guide, the RFU has set a standard number of matches that each pitch should be able to accommodate, based on quality, as set out below.

Table 6.11: Pitch capacity (matches per week) based on quality assessments

		Maintenance		
		Poor (M0)	Adequate (M1)	Good (M2)
Drainage	Natural Inadequate (D0)	0.5	1.5	2
	Natural Adequate or Pipe Drained (D1)	1.5	2	3
	Pipe Drained (D2)	1.75	2.5	3.25
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	2	3	3.5

Capacity is based upon a basic assessment of the drainage system and maintenance programme ascertained through a combination of the quality assessment and consultation. This guide, however, is only a very general measure of potential pitch capacity. It does not account for specific circumstances at time of use and it assumes average rainfall and an appropriate end of season rest and renovation programme.

Table 6.12: Capacity table for rugby pitches in Oldham

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Available for community use?	Security of tenure	Quality rating	No. of pitches	Sports lit?	Competitive demand (Match equivalent sessions per week)	Training demand (Match equivalent sessions per week)	Site capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Comments
22	Crompton House C of E School	North	Yes (Unused)	Unsecure	M0/D1 (Poor)	1	No	1	-	1.5	0.5	Poor quality pitch which is currently unused by community clubs. Used for curriculum and extra curriculum activities. Pitch has potential spare capacity.
76	Oldham Rugby Football Club	South	Yes	Secure	M1/D0 (Poor)	1	No	1	-	1.5	0.5	Poor quality first team pitch which is has potential spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Used by Oldham RUFC to accommodate competitive demand.
76	Oldham Rugby Football Club	South	Yes	Secure	M1/D0 (Poor)	1	Yes	2	3	1.5	3.5	Poor quality pitch which is overplayed by 3.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Used by Oldham RUFC to accommodate both competitive and training demand.
76	Oldham Rugby Football Club	South	Yes	Secure	M1/D0 (Poor)	1	Yes (Partially)	2.5	2	1.5	3	Poor quality pitch which is overplayed by three match equivalent sessions per week. Used by Oldham RUFC to accommodate both competitive and training demand.

Actual spare capacity

The next step is to ascertain whether or not any identified 'potential capacity' can be deemed 'actual 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.

There are two sites which display potential spare capacity to accommodate additional play totalling one match equivalent sessions per week. However, in practice there is no spare capacity on these pitches at peak time due to poor quality and unsecure.

Table 6.13: Summary of actual spare capacity on senior pitches (Saturday PM)

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Potential capacity	Actual spare capacity	Comments
22	Crompton House C of E School	North	0.5	-	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor quality and unsecure tenure.
76	Oldham Rugby Football Club	South	0.5	-	Actual spare capacity discounted due poor quality.

For age grade rugby, ascertaining actual spare capacity can be unclear with regards to the programming of matches as it can vary from week to week. This is because age grade sections tend to enter cup competitions or play organised friendly fixtures, with clubs arranging for several of their age groups to play those from another club all at once, either at home or away. Then when fixtures are not scheduled, clubs will generally hold training sessions, which means that clubs may require use of home pitches for consecutive weeks, or not at all for the same time period.

Given the above, it is generally assumed that no pitches used by age grade teams have significant actual spare capacity. However, it is acknowledged that some capacity does exist during the weekend when the pitches are not in use.

Overplay

There are two pitches on one site which are overplayed totalling 6.5 match equivalent sessions per week as seen below.

Table 6.14: Overplay summary (pitches used by community teams)

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Number of pitches	Overplay (match equivalent sessions per week)
76	Oldham Rugby Football Club	South	1	3.5
76	Oldham Rugby Football Club	South	1	3
-	-	**Total**	**2**	**6.5**

All overplay in Oldham is located at one site Oldham Rugby Football Club. These two pitches are poor quality and accommodate a substantial amount of competitive and training demand.

6.5: Supply and demand analysis

Having considered supply and demand, the table below identifies the overall spare capacity and overplay of rugby union pitches in Oldham based on match equivalent sessions per week.

Table 6.15: Summary of supply and demand analysis in match equivalent sessions

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current demand	Future demand	Total
Central	-	-		-	
East	-	-		-	
North	-	-		-	
South	-	6.5	6.5	-	6.5
West	-	-		-	
Oldham	**0**	**6.5**	**6.5**	**0**	**6.5**

There is a current and future shortfall of 6.5 match equivalent sessions per week to meet rugby union demand in Oldham.

6.6: Conclusion

There is a clear shortfall of rugby union capacity in Oldham which exclusively originates at Oldham RUFC and the poor quality pitches with the demand pressures on its site.

The forthcoming Strategy & Action Plan will explore how to alleviate shortfalls and assess the impact of future demand. Future demand will consist of club aspirations and the impact of a success legacy programme following the 2025 Rugby World Cup.

Supply and demand summary

- **There is a current and future shortfall of 6.5 match equivalent sessions per week to meet rugby union demand in Oldham.**

Supply summary

- There are four grass rugby union pitches identified in Oldham across two sites. All four pitches are available for community use with only one pitch located in the North Analysis Area (Crompton House C of E School), available for community use but currently unused.
- Provision of rugby union pitches is split between North Analysis Area and South Analysis Area accommodating four pitches collectively. There is no rugby union provision located in the Central, East or West analysis areas.
- Oldham RUFC accesses one site which is located at Oldham Rugby Football Club. The Club has a freehold of its sites and therefore has secure tenure.
- All community available pitches in Oldham are poor quality located at Crompton House C of E School and Oldham Rugby Football Club.
- Oldham RUFC access ancillary facilities at Oldham Rugby Football Club which it reports are generally good quality. The clubhouse facilities are also considered to be of good quality and are available to hire for events. The Club is in the process of updating and painting the provision. Additionally, its installing wall partitions for separate female changing rooms with contained showers and toilets.

Demand summary

- There is one community rugby union clubs based in Oldham, providing a total of 14 teams. There are three senior teams, of which, one is women's. There are four age grade boys' teams, one dedicated age grade girls' teams and six mixed age grade teams.
- Oldham RUFC utilises a partially sports lit grass pitch accompanied by a fully sports lit pitch to accommodate its entire training demand. However, it should be noted that the six mini teams utilise the disused bowling green for their training demand.
- Currently, there are no WR compliant 3G pitches are identified in Oldham. Oldham RUFC has aspiration to convert the disused bowling green located at Oldham Rugby Football Club to a small sided 3G pitch for training.
- No additional teams are predicted to be generated via population growth alone.
- Oldham RUFC indicate plans to increase the number of senior teams by one team following a decrease in this section over last couple of seasons.
- There are two sites which display potential spare capacity to accommodate additional play totalling one match equivalent sessions. However, in practice there is no spare capacity on these pitches at any peak time due to neither site being considered secure.
- There are two pitches across one site which are overplayed totalling 6.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

PART 7: HOCKEY

7.1: Introduction

Hockey in England is governed by England Hockey (EH). It is considered that a hockey pitch can accommodate a maximum of four matches on one day, providing that it has sports lighting. Training is generally midweek for senior activity and requires access to a pitch and sports lights, whereas many junior teams train on a Sunday as well as during midweek.

Competitive league hockey matches and training can only be played on sand filled, sand dressed or water based artificial grass pitches (AGPs). Although competitive, adult and junior club training cannot take place on third generation turf pitches (3G), 40mm pitches may be suitable for introductory level hockey, such as school curriculum low level hockey. EH's Artificial Grass Playing Surface Policy details suitability of surface type for varying levels of hockey, as shown below.

Table 7.1: England Hockey guidelines on artificial surface types suitable for hockey

Category	Surface	Essential Playing Level	Desirable Playing Level
1	Water surface approved within the FIH Global/National Parameters	International hockey (training and matches).	Domestic National Premier League competition; Higher levels of player pathway (performance centres and upwards).
2	Sand dressed surfaces within the FIH National Parameter	Domestic National Premier League competition; Higher levels of player pathway (academy centres and upwards).	All adult and junior league hockey; Intermediate or advanced school hockey; EH competitions for clubs and schools.
3	Sand filled surfaces within the FIH National Parameter	All adult and junior club training and league hockey; EH competitions for clubs and schools; Intermediate or advanced school hockey.	Lower level hockey (introductory level).
4	All 3G surfaces	No hockey.	Lower level hockey (introductory level) when no category 1-3 surface is available.

In addition to the above pitch types, EH is currently trialling a different multi-sport surface in order to better accommodate lower levels of hockey demand on a pitch that is also suitable for other sports such as netball and tennis. The surface type, known as Gen 2[23], is a versatile surface that will ensure that the sports do not need to compromise on the playing experience; it is a sand dressed synthetic turf with a compatible shock pad. The concept is designed to provide facilities, including at schools, with a dynamic carpet which reduces the amount of space required and enables the provision to be utilised to its full potential.

Consultation

Oldham HC is the only hockey club in Oldham and was consulted with via an online interview, representing a 100% club response rate.

[23] Link to England Hockey website

7.2: Supply

There is one full size hockey suitable artificial grass pitches (AGPs) located at Newman RC College in the West Analysis Area, which is sports lit and available for community use. There is no smaller size hockey suitable AGP identified in Oldham.

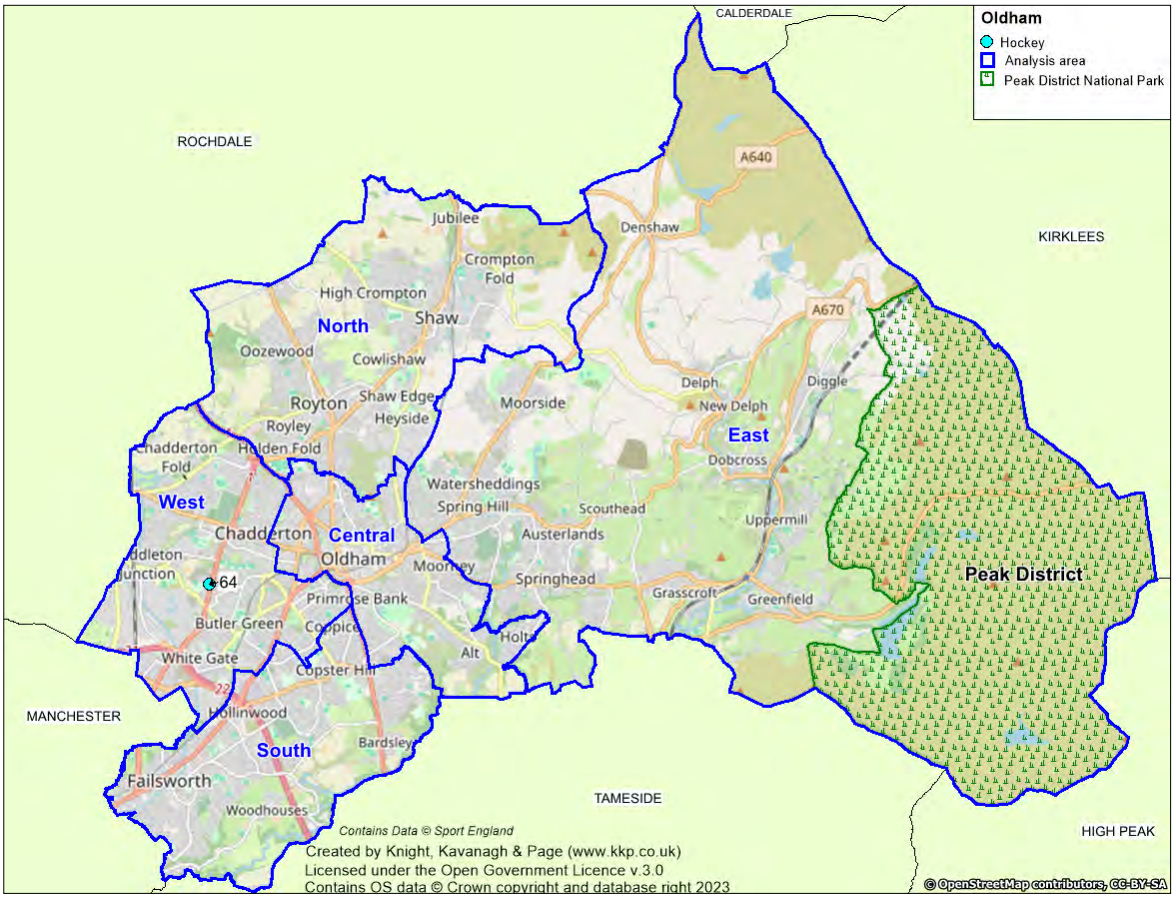
Potential future provision

There is a potential planning application being submitted for a new Gen 2 pitch located at Our Lady's RC High School in Blackley (Manchester). This site is located four miles away from Newman RC College (home to Oldham HC).

Disused provision

There are two disused full size hockey suitable artificial grass pitches (AGPs) in Oldham located at Grange Synthetic Pitch (Central Analysis Area) and Oldham Sports for All Centre (South Analysis Area), the latter being lost due to a new housing development.

Figure 7.1: Map of full size hockey suitable AGPs pitches within Oldham



Quality

Depending on use, it is considered that the carpet of an AGP usually lasts for approximately ten years and it is the age of the surface, combined with maintenance levels, which most commonly affects quality. It is therefore recommended that sinking funds be put into place by providers to enable long-term sustainability, on-going repairs and future refurbishment beyond this period.

The following table indicates when each full size hockey suitable AGP was installed or last resurfaced together with a quality rating following non-technical assessments and user/provider consultation.

Table 7.2: Summary of full size hockey suitable AGP quality

Site ID	Site name	Availability for community use?	Number of pitches	Surface type	Year built (refurbished)	Quality
64	Newman RC College	Yes	1	Sand Filled	2011	Poor

The pitch located at Newman RC College is rated as poor quality due to its relative age and limited maintenance. The Club also state the maintenance of the surface is poor and during heavy rain fall the pitch can ripple slightly causing a safety risk.

Ownership/management and security of tenure

Newman RC College is operated by an external lettings company, EQUANS.

Oldham HC currently uses the provision at Newman RC College, and it states that no formal usage agreement is in place and therefore it does not have secured access. It reports wanting to formalise an agreement for dedicated hockey usage at peak times, midweek for training and for competitive demand, in order provide security of tenure and capacity for growth, however, only on the basis the surface is improved.

The Club states the cost of hiring the AGP at Newman RC College is £175 per hour which is an issue due to it currently hiring a two-hour minimum slots. It should be noted that the Council subsidises the hire cost by £75 per hour, however, the Club still reports it recently increased membership fees to cover the cost.

Ancillary provision

Access to ancillary facilities at school sites can often be restricted or limited for security reasons where changing rooms may be located in the main school building or where there is a lack of staffing to open and manage access. Schools also often have limited budget amongst other competing requirements for investment to make any qualitative improvements to changing provision, consequently they are often tired, dated and in need of modernisation.

Oldham HC access changing facilities at Newman RC College and states the changing rooms are in an adequate condition with no major issues.

7.3: Demand

Oldham HC is the only affiliated hockey club in Oldham. It provides four teams (three senior women's and one mixed team) and a junior section. All its demand takes place on the AGP at Newman RC College.

Table 7.3: England Hockey affiliation figures (Category One and Two)

Name of club	Senior men (17-55)	Senior women (17-55)	Junior boys (14-16)	Junior girls (14-16)	Junior boys (11-13)	Junior girls (11-13)	Mini mixed (5-10)	Total
Oldham HC	11	49	3	11	7	8	13	**102**

All matches and training take place at Newman RC College with matches played from 10:30 Saturdays and Sundays. Training takes place from 18:30 – 19:30 on Thursday for junior training, and 19:00 – 20:30 on Thursday for senior training (women's and mixed teams).

Exported/imported demand

Imported demand refers to any demand from neighbouring local authorities that accesses facilities within Oldham due to a lack of available facilities in other local authorities where such team or club is based.

Exported demand refers to teams that are currently accessing provision for home fixtures outside of Oldham, despite being from within the Authority.

There is currently no known exported or imported hockey demand in/out of Oldham.

Latent/unmet demand

Unmet demand is existing demand at clubs which is not able to access sufficient supply of pitches for match play or training. It is usually expressed, for example, where a team is already training but is unable to access a match pitch or where a league or club operates a waiting list. Consultation did not highlight any potential unmet demand.

Latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision. There is currently no latent demand which was highlighted through consultation.

Future demand

Growing participation is a key aim within EH's Strategic Plan and key drivers include working with clubs, universities, schools and regional and local leagues as well as developing opportunities for over 40s and delivering a quality programme of competition.
Overall, it has an aim to double participation over the next ten years, meaning it does not consider team generation rates to provide an accurate representation of potential growth.

Population increases

Based on population projections to 2041 (the period to which this assessment projects population based future demand), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) can estimate the likely additional demand for hockey that will arise from any growth.

Using the current and future populations together with the current team numbers, team generation rates (TGRs) have been established to understand how much growth is required to establish one new team.

For reference the current population of 242,171 will increase to 261,018 by 2041. The table below shows the number of new teams generated by the new population and the requisite match equivalent sessions.

Table 7.4: Authority wide team generation rates

Age group	Team generation rate	No. of new teams generated by the new population	No. of new teams generated by the new population - rounded figure	No. of match equivalent session [24]
Men (17-55yrs)	1:59963	**0.08**	0	-
Women (17-55yrs)	1:19804	**0.25**	0	-

As seen in the table above, no additional senior hockey teams are predicted to be generated via population growth alone.

Participation increases

Oldham HC aspires to continue to increase both the senior and junior section, but the pitch quality at Newman RC College is affecting growth.

Hockey Heroes

Hockey Heroes is an eight-week hockey programme aimed at beginners (children aged five to eight) that not only focuses on helping children develop some physical hockey skills such as dribbling, passing and goal scoring, but also places as much emphasis on character development including teamwork, communication, perseverance, and respect.

There are currently no Hockey Heroes courses operating in Oldham.

Back to Hockey

Back to Hockey sessions are fun, social, and informal and are aimed at people who either have not played for a number of years or that are looking to play for the first time. They are generally hosted by clubs, with EH providing guidance on how to deliver the programme.

Benefits of clubs being involved in Back to Hockey include:

- More members.
- More casual players.
- Additional income.
- Extra publicity.
- New volunteers.

Oldham HC ran back to hockey sessions in the past, however, due to the pitch quality at Newman RC College sessions currently can't be held. It is an aspiration for the Club to bring these sessions back.

Walking hockey

Increasing in popularity, walking hockey is perfect for players looking for a less physically demanding version of the game but still enjoy showing their skills and being involved in the team and social aspect.

There are currently no walking hockey sessions operating in Oldham.

[24] Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, one team accounts to 0.5 match equivalent sessions on their relevant pitch type.

Peak time demand

Generally, all senior hockey is played on a Saturday whereas all junior and mixed hockey is played on a Sunday.

Availability

The following table summarises the availability of full sized AGPs for community use in Oldham. In addition, it records the availability of provision within the peak period. Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) applies an overall peak period for AGPs of 34 hours per week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00).

Newman RC College is available for community use midweek from 6pm as its situated at an education site and is used by schools for extracurricular sport until this time.

Table 7.5: Summary of availability and usage of full size hockey suitable AGPs in Oldham

Site ID	Site name	Surface type	Availability for community use	Sports lighting?	Quality[25]	Total number of hours available for community use during peak period	Hockey usage	Football usage	Spare capacity
64	Newman RC College	Sand Filled	Yes	Yes	Poor	Weekdays: 13 hours Weekends: 16 hours Total: 29 hours	10.5 hours (36%) – Oldham HC	0 hours – currently unused for football training demand	18.5 hours (64%) *Weekdays (11 Hours)* *Weekends (7.5 Hours)*

Spare capacity

There is spare capacity to accommodate additional use in the peak period on the full size hockey suitable AGP at Newman RC College; however, this is limited due to the poor quality of the surface.

[25] Quality is assessed via a combination of non-technical assessments carried out by KKP but also take account of user views and opinions.

7.4: Supply and demand analysis

It is suggested that a full size, sports lit AGP is able to accommodate four match equivalent sessions on one day. With teams playing on a home and away basis, this equates to one AGP being able to cater for eight 'home' teams at peak time (one team requires 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week on its 'home' AGP).

Using the above calculations, on the basis that there is one full size AGP available which can accommodate hockey matches in Oldham, this provides an opportunity to accommodate up to 16 hockey teams across the Borough. With just four teams plus juniors currently playing in Oldham, there is sufficient spare capacity to accommodate demand current and potential future demand.

At present the Club also has a sufficient level of access for midweek training for both its junior and senior teams. However, the current poor quality pitch at Newman RC College and the associated cost to access is inhibiting hockey growth.

7.5: Conclusion

Although there is only one hockey club in Oldham (Oldham HC), who has full access to Newman RC College, it can't be said that the current provision is sufficient to meet the demand and need for the Club. The pitch located at Newman RC College is poor quality and is a concern as this is affecting future growth potential for the Club. Further to this, the unsecure tenure and cost of access (even with a subsidy) is also affecting the future status of the Club in Oldham.

Supply and demand summary

- **Although there is only one hockey club in Oldham (Oldham HC), who has full access to Newman RC College, it can't be said that the current provision is sufficient to meet the demand and need for the Club.**
- **The pitch located at Newman RC College is poor quality and is a concern as this is affecting future growth potential for the Club. Further to this, the unsecure tenure and cost of access (even with a subsidy) is also affecting the future status of the Club in Oldham.**

Supply summary

- There is one full size hockey suitable artificial grass pitches (AGPs) located in Oldham in the West Analysis Area, which is sports lit and is available for community use.
- The pitch located at Newman RC College is rated as poor quality due to their relative age and limited maintenance.
- Newman RC College is operated by an external lettings company, EQUANS.
- Oldham HC access changing facilities at Newman RC College and states the changing rooms are in standard condition with no major issues.

Demand summary

- Oldham HC is the only affiliated hockey club in Oldham, providing four teams (three senior women's and one mixed team) and a junior section. All of its demand takes place on the AGP at Newman RC College.
- All matches and training take place at Newman RC College with matches played from 10:30 Saturdays and Sundays. Training takes place from 18:30 – 19:30 on Thursday for junior training, and 19:00 – 20:30 on Thursday for senior training (women's and mixed teams).
- There is currently no known exported or imported hockey demand in Oldham.
- Oldham HC aspires to continue to increase both the senior and junior section, but the pitch quality at Newman RC College is affecting growth.
- Oldham HC ran back to hockey sessions in the past, however, due to the pitch quality at Newman RC College sessions currently can't be held. It is an aspiration for the Club to bring these sessions back.
- There is spare capacity to accommodate additional use in the peak period on the full size hockey suitable AGPs at Newman RC College; however, this is limited due to the poor quality of the surface.
- There is one full size AGP available which can accommodate hockey matches in Oldham, this provides an opportunity to accommodate up to 16 hockey teams across the Borough. With just four teams plus juniors currently playing in Oldham, there is sufficient spare capacity to accommodate demand.

PART 8: BOWLING GREENS

8.1: Introduction

Outdoor bowls in Oldham is played on crown greens, with a typical season running in the Summer from May until September. The British Crown Green Bowling Association (BCGBA) is the NGB with overall responsibility for ensuring effective governance of the sport.

Flat green bowls is another version of bowls played in England, governed separately by Bowls England. However, this format of the sport is played predominately in the South of England.

Consultation

There are 31 bowls clubs located in Oldham. Of the 31 clubs, eight clubs responded to consultation requests, resulting in an 26% response rate as seen below.

It should be noted that several attempts were made to contact the unresponsive clubs. A lot of contact information and club websites can be outdated and therefore makes it difficult when trying to contact clubs. Additionally, it cannot be said that all clubs listed below are still active.

Table 8.1: Summary of consultation

Name of club	Responded?
Bullcote Green Ladies	No
Coalshaw Green Park Vets	No
Copster Park	No
Crompton Bowling Club	Yes
Deplh & Dobcross BC	No
Dunwood Park	No
Fitton Park	No
Foxdenton Park	No
Friezland BC	No
Higher Failsworth Park Vets BC	No
Lees & Hey Con Club	No
Lower Failsworth	No
Moorside	Yes
Nimble Nook BC	Yes
North Chadderton Conservative BC	Yes
Oldham Deaf Club	No
Oldham Rugby BC including ORU Phoenix	No
Oldham Transport	No
Royton Cricket Club BC	Yes
Royton Park BC	No
Saddleworth	No
Springbank BC	No
St George's Social Bowling Club	Yes
Stoneleigh Park Ladies	No
The Church Ladies	No
Uppermill BC	No
Waterhead Park	No

Name of club	Responded?
Werneth Cricket Club	No
Werneth Park	Yes
West End Bowls Club	No
Westwood Park Vets	Yes

8.2: Supply

There are 33 crown bowling greens identified in Oldham across 26 sites, all of which, are available for community use. It should be noted that since the previous study the bowling green located at Hollinwood Sports Club is now disused. Most of this provision is in the West Analysis Area (11 greens).

In addition to the outdoor bowling greens listed below, there is also an indoor bowls hall at Oldham Leisure Centre, which offers four rinks and is available for community use.

Table 8.2: Summary of community available greens by analysis area

Analysis area	Number of bowling greens
Central	3
East	7
North	7
South	5
West	11
Oldham	**33**

The figures below show the location of the greens servicing Oldham. For a key to the map, see Table 8.3.

Figure 8.1: Location of bowling greens in Oldham

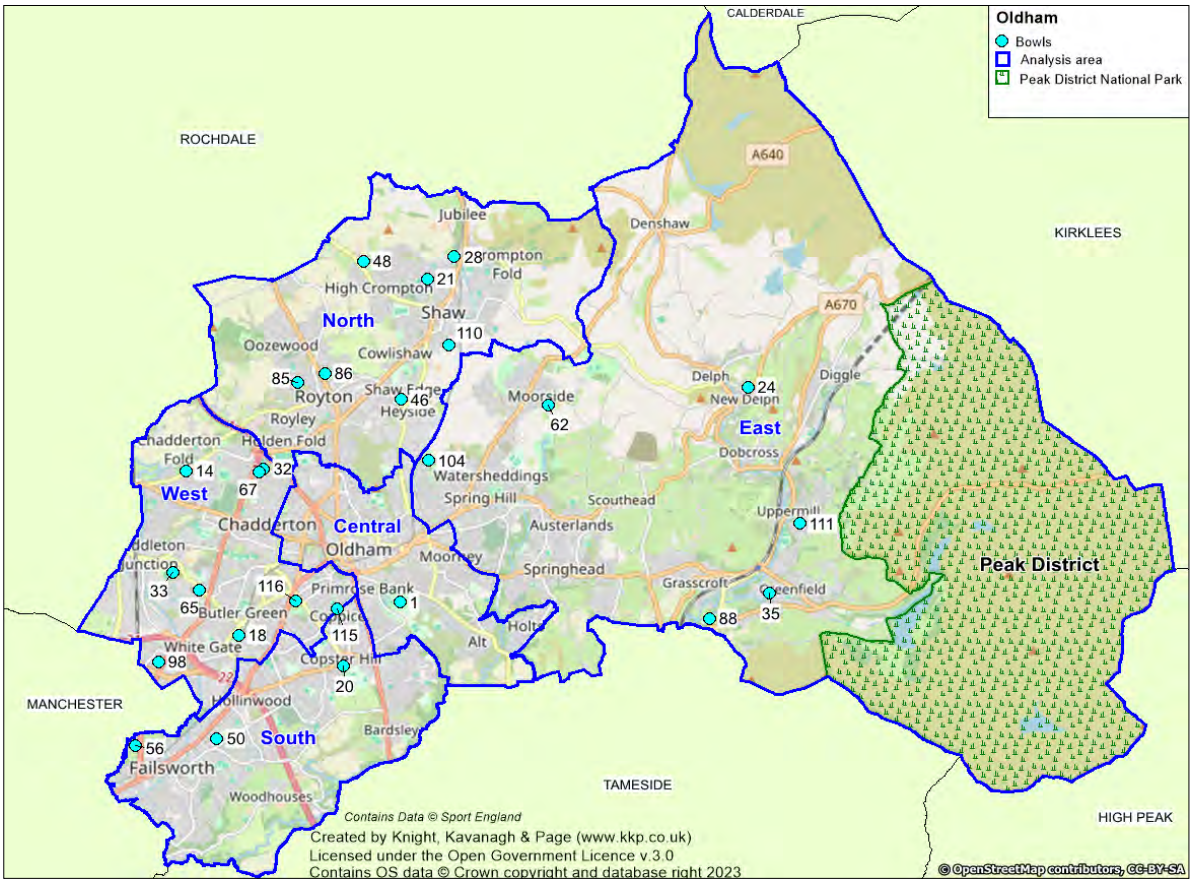

Oldham
Bowls
Analysis area
Peak District National Park
CALDERDALE
ROCHDALE
KIRKLEES
TAMESIDE
HIGH PEAK
MANCHESTER
A640
A670
North
West
Central
East
South
Peak District
Jubilee
Denshaw
High Crompton
Shaw
Oozewood
Cowlishaw
Royton
Heyside
Moorside
Delph
New Delph
Diggle
Dobcross
Royley
Holden Fold
Watersheddings
Spring Hill
Scouthead
Austerlands
Uppermill
Chadderton
Oldham
Springhead
Grasscroft
Primrose Bank
Butler Green
White Gate
Alt
Holts
Hollinwood
Bardsley
Failsworth
Woodhouses
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Table 8.3: Key to map

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Analysis area	No. of greens	Type of green	Club user
1	Alexandra Park (Oldham)	OL8 2BH	Central	3	Crown	Westwood Park Vets
14	Chadderton Hall Park	OL9 0QP	West	1	Crown	*Unknown*
18	Coalshaw Green Park	OL9 8JP	West	2	Crown	Coalshaw Green Park Vets
20	Copster Park	OL8 3AE	South	2	Crown	Copster Park
21	Crompton Cricket Club	OL2 7SF	North	1	Crown	Crompton Bowling Club
24	Delph And Dobcross Cricket Club	OL3 5EN	East	1	Crown	Delph & Dobcross BC
28	Dunwood Park	OL2 7UQ	North	1	Crown	Dunwood Park
32	Fitton Park	OL1 2QP	West	1	Crown	Fitton Park
33	Foxdenton Park	OL9 9QS	West	2	Crown	Foxdenton Park
35	Friezland Bowling Club	OL3 7EL	East	2	Crown	Friezland BC
46	Heyside Park	OL2 6NT	North	1	Crown	*Unknown*
48	High Crompton Park	OL2 7NW	North	1	Crown	*Unknown*
50	Higher Memorial Park	M35 9DW	South	1	Crown	Higher Failsworth Park Vets BC
56	Lower Memorial Park	M35 0DY	South	2	Crown	Bluebell BC / Lower Failsworth / Broadway Hotel
62	Moorside Cricket & Bowling Club	OL4 2ND	East	1	Crown	Moorside
65	Nimble Nook Working Mens Club	OL9 9FW	West	1	Crown	Nimble Nook BC
67	North Chadderton Social & Bowling Club	OL9 0EH	West	1	Crown	North Chadderton Social & Bowling Club
85	Royton Cricket Club	OL2 5TX	North	1	Crown	Royton Cricket Club BC
86	Royton Park	OL2 6RL	North	1	Crown	Royton Park BC
88	Saddleworth Cricket Tennis and Bowling Club	OL3 7HY	East	1	Crown	Saddleworth
98	St George's Square Bowling Green	OL9 9NU	West	1	Crown	St George's Social & Bowling Club
104	Stoneleigh Park	OL1 4LJ	East	1	Crown	Stoneleigh Park Ladies
110	Twingates Close Bowling Green	OL2 8PU	North	1	Crown	*Unknown*
111	Uppermill Sports Club	OL3 6HG	East	1	Crown	Uppermill BC
115	Werneth Cricket Club	OL8 1AA	West	1	Crown	Weneth Cricket Club

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Analysis area	No. of greens	Type of green	Club user
116	Werneth Park	OL8 1RB	West	1	Crown	Werneth Park Bowling Club

Quality

Non-technical assessment of greens in Oldham (carried out in July 2024) have been cross referenced with the findings against club consultation to generate a quality score. The table below identifies these scores for every site in Oldham.

The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows: Good (>80%), Standard (50-70%), Poor (<70%) and include, but are not limited to, the examination of; evenness of playing surface, condition of ditches/boarding, quality of surrounding hard areas, disability access, evidence of litter/leaf fall/fouling/inappropriate use and quality of ancillary provision (clubhouse/pavilion/car parking / floodlights/fencing).

Table 8.4: Summary of bowling green quality

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of greens	Quality of green
1	Alexandra Park (Oldham)	Central	3	Good
14	Chadderton Hall Park	West	1	Standard
18	Coalshaw Green Park	West	2	Standard
20	Copster Park	South	2	Standard
21	Crompton Cricket Club	North	1	Standard
24	Delph And Dobcross Cricket Club	East	1	Good
28	Dunwood Park	North	1	Standard
32	Fitton Park	West	1	Poor
33	Foxdenton Park	West	2	Standard
35	Friezland Bowling Club	East	2	Good
46	Heyside Park	North	1	Good
48	High Crompton Park	North	1	Good
50	Higher Memorial Park	South	1	Poor
56	Lower Memorial Park	South	2	Good
62	Moorside Cricket & Bowling Club	East	1	Good
65	Nimble Nook Working Mens Club	West	1	Standard
67	North Chadderton Social & Bowling Club	West	1	Good
85	Royton Cricket Club	North	1	Good
86	Royton Park	North	1	Poor
88	Saddleworth Cricket Tennis and Bowling Club	East	1	Standard
98	St George's Square Bowling Green	West	1	Good
104	Stoneleigh Park	East	1	Standard
110	Twingates Close Bowling Green	North	1	Good
111	Uppermill Sports Club	East	1	Poor
115	Werneth Cricket Club	West	1	Good
116	Werneth Park	West	1	Good

In Oldham, a total of 17 greens (52%) are assessed as good quality, 12 greens (36%) as standard quality with the remaining four being poor quality (12%).

Even though most greens across Oldham are good quality, they still require a high level of dedicated maintenance to sustain this standard.

A green is considered good quality if it has a high percentage of grass coverage, an even playing surface and limited signs of wear and tear on surrounding ditches/boarding and hard standing areas. In addition, there must be little to no evidence of litter, dog fouling, leaves and inappropriate usage of the green.

The greens at Fitton Park, Higher Memorial Park, Royton Park and Uppermill Sports Club are all assessed as poor quality. Of these three greens are managed by the Council with Uppermill Sports Club managed by the Sports Club. These greens all have issues with the evenness of the green and length of grass, with certain areas of high wear and tear. These greens require more rigorous maintenance regime to improve the quality.

Crompton Bowls Club states the path and surroundings of the green are in a bad state of repair but haven't got any funds to improve this. It is located on Hopwood Trust Land which the Club approached for support with improving this, however, the Trust don't have the funds to undertake the required improvements.

North Chadderton Social and Bowling Club report receiving funding to improving paths around the green plus a water harvesting system.

Ancillary facilities

All clubs which responded to consultation have access to some form of clubhouse/pavilion on site or through an adjoining public house. The quality of these range from purpose built brick pavilions to basic wooden huts and shelters.

In Oldham, 13 sites are accompanied by good quality facilities, with nine sites having standard quality facilities and four sites having poor quality facilities.

Table 8.5: Summary of ancillary provision quality

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of greens	Ancillary quality rating
1	Alexandra Park (Oldham)	Central	3	Good
14	Chadderton Hall Park	West	1	Good
18	Coalshaw Green Park	West	2	Poor
20	Copster Park	South	2	Standard
21	Crompton Cricket Club	North	1	Good
24	Delph And Dobcross Cricket Club	East	1	Good
28	Dunwood Park	North	1	Standard
32	Fitton Park	West	1	Poor
33	Foxdenton Park	West	2	Good
35	Friezland Bowling Club	East	2	Good
46	Heyside Park	North	1	Standard
48	High Crompton Park	North	1	Poor
50	Higher Memorial Park	South	1	Standard
56	Lower Memorial Park	South	2	Standard
62	Moorside Cricket & Bowling Club	East	1	Good
65	Nimble Nook Working Mens Club	West	1	Good
67	North Chadderton Social & Bowling Club	West	1	Good
85	Royton Cricket Club	North	1	Good

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of greens	Ancillary quality rating
86	Royton Park	North	1	Standard
88	Saddleworth Cricket Tennis and Bowling Club	East	1	Good
98	St George's Square Bowling Green	West	1	Good
104	Stoneleigh Park	East	1	Poor
110	Twingates Close Bowling Green	North	1	Standard
111	Uppermill Sports Club	East	1	Standard
115	Werneth Cricket Club	West	1	Good
116	Werneth Park	West	1	Standard

The ancillary facilities identified as poor quality are located across four sites, Coalshaw Green Park, Fitton Park, High Crompton Park and Stoneleigh Park this is due to being outdated and in need of modernisation. All four sites are all managed by the Council.

Werneth Park Bowling Club has applied to add portable toilets near its green, but the planning permission has not been granted. However, this remains an aspiration for the Club.

No other issues or future for ancillary provision were highlighted through consultation with clubs.

Sports lighting

In Oldham, 10 greens are serviced by sports lighting at the following sites:

- Chadderton Hall Park.
- Delph and Dobcross Cricket Club.
- Friezland Bowling Club.
- Moorside Cricket & Bowling Club.
- North Chadderton Social & Bowling Club.
- Royton Cricket Club.
- Saddleworth Cricket Tennis and Bowling Club.
- Twingates Close Bowling Green.
- Uppermill Sports Club.
- Werneth Cricket Club.

Greens with sports lighting offer opportunities to access provision for training and matches during evenings outside of the summer months. However, they are relatively rare across the Country, with the level of sports lighting supply across Oldham considered to be comparatively high.

8.3: Demand

Current demand

There are 31 bowling clubs identified as playing in Oldham although only eight have responded to consultation requests to date and given membership figures. Membership of the responsive clubs where known can be seen in the table below.

Table 8.6: Membership for responding bowls clubs across Oldham

Club name	Senior males	Senior females	Juniors (U18)	Total
Crompton Bowling Club	35	15	0	**50**
Moorside	55	32	0	**87**
Nimble Nook BC	58	5	0	**63**
North Chadderton Conservative BC	115	33	4	**152**
Royton Cricket Club BC	**60**	**35**	**2**	**97**
St George's Social Bowling Club	**50**	**30**	**0**	**80**
Werneth Park	**31**	**3**	**0**	**34**
Westwood Park Vets	**12**	**0**	**0**	**12**

The largest club according to known membership in Oldham is currently North Chadderton Conservative BC, with 152 members.

Future demand

The BCGBA is actively working to negate the stereotype that bowls is a sport is for the older generation. As such, it is taking active steps at a county and national level to encourage younger players.

Of responding clubs in Oldham, five clubs (North Chadderton Conservative BC, Moorside BC, St George's Social Bowling Club, Royton Cricket Club BC and Westwood Park Vets) highlight plans to increase membership, however, don't quantify the amount.

Latent and unmet demand

Unmet demand is existing demand at clubs which is not able to access sufficient supply of greens for match play or training. It is usually expressed, for example where a club operates a waiting list. Consultation did not highlight any potential unmet demand.

Latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision. There is currently no latent demand which is highlighted through consultation.

Sport England's Market Segmentation Tool[26] enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in bowls but are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 372 people who would like to participate in the sport within Oldham. This represents approximately 0.15% of Oldham's population compared to a national average of 0.16%.

Notwithstanding the above, none of the bowling clubs in Oldham are reported as operating at capacity, with all clubs willing to accept new members. As such, it is considered that anyone within Oldham who would like to start participating, could do so at the clubs and greens already in existence.

[26] See Appendix 2

8.4: Supply and demand analysis

The capacity of a bowling green is very much dependent on the leagues and the day that they operate. A green may have no spare capacity on an afternoon or evening when a popular league operates but may be unused for the rest of the week. However, in many cases, greens are used during the afternoons by club members who bowl socially, with access a potential issue during peak times if membership is particularly high.
The BCGBA does not have any specific guidance on bowling green capacity, stating that it can vary from site-to-site and from club-to-club.

However, as a guide, it states that any green used by at least 20 members is generally considered to be sustainable, whilst any green operating with a membership of over 60 may need additional resource to ensure that it is meeting its required level of demand. Therefore, capacity ratings for bowling greens are classified as follows:

Within capacity range	Membership ensures green is sustainable without capacity issues
Outside capacity range	Membership is below or above the recommended capacity range

Following this, the table below highlights the level of usage each green in Oldham receives, where the information is known. Where no membership information is known, further communication is required with clubs to fully understand their needs and any potential capacity or sustainability issues.

Table 8.7: Bowling green supply vs demand analysis

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Ownership	Users	No. of greens	Total members	Current capacity	Future members	Future capacity
1	Alexandra Park (Oldham)	Central	Local Authority	Westwood Park Vets	1	12	**48**	-	**48**
21	Crompton Cricket Club	North	Sports Club	Crompton Bowling Club	1	50	**10**	-	**10**
62	Moorside Cricket & Bowling Club	East	Sports Club	Moorside BC	1	87	**27**	-	**27**
65	Nimble Nook Working Mens Club	West	Commercial	Nimble Nook BC	1	63	**3**	-	**3**
67	North Chadderton Social & Bowling Club	West	Sports Club	North Chadderton Social and Bowling Club	1	152	**92**	-	**92**
85	Royton Cricket Club	North	Sports Club	Royton Cricket Club BC	1	97	**37**	-	**37**
98	St George's Square Bowling Green	West	Sports Clun	St Georges Social & Bowling Club	1	80	**20**	-	**20**
116	Werneth Park	West	Local Authority	Werneth Park Bowling Club	1	34	**26**	-	**26**

Of the responding clubs, the table above shows that all but one club (Westwood Park Vets) are currently operating within a 'sustainable' membership range within Oldham. There are five clubs (North Chadderton Social & Bowling Club, Nimble Nook BC, Moorside BC, Royton Cricket Club BC and St George's Social & Bowling Club) operating above BCGBA capacity guidelines. However, no club specifically mentions a need for an additional bowling green as a way to accommodate existing or further demand. Westwood Park Vets is currently accommodating 12 members which is below the recommendation to be considered sustainable.

Clubs with high memberships play both competitive matches and recreational matches throughout a full week to offer something for everyone within their respective membership bases, and to that end, peak time pressures are reduced for this reason.

Those clubs which have a substantial level of demand need to be monitored to ensure they have the appropriate quantity and quality of provision. The BCGBA identifies that clubs operating with a membership of over 60 members per green could have capacity issues. Emphasis in this regard should therefore be on supporting clubs with aspirations to improve their sites as this will likely improve the capacity for the provision to accommodate increased levels of demand.

8.5: Conclusion

Although all current demand is being accommodated, North Chadderton Social & Bowling Club, Nimble Nook BC, Moorside BC, Royton Cricket Club BC and St Georges Social & Bowling Club are operating at or above recommended capacity levels and therefore need to be monitored to ensure that supply remains adequate. Conversely, Westwood Park Vets is operating below the recommended threshold to be suitable and therefore need to be monitored to ensure the long-term survival of the Club.

Total membership for the eight responsive clubs equates in Oldham to 575. Therefore, the average bowls club membership in Oldham is 72 members. Of these clubs, three highlight aspirations to increase membership. These clubs all suggest that future demand can adequately be accommodated on their existing green.

Supply and demand summary

- **Five clubs within Oldham (North Chadderton Social & Bowling Club, Nimble Nook BC, Moorside BC, Royton Cricket Club BC and St Georges Social & Bowling Club) are operating at or above recommended capacity levels and therefore need to be monitored to ensure that supply remains adequate.**
- **Overall, future demand expressed can be accommodated on existing greens.**

Supply summary

- There are 33 bowling greens across 26 sites in Oldham, all of which, are available for community use. Most of this provision is in the West Analysis Area (11 greens). It should be noted that since the previous study the bowling green located at Hollinwood Sports Club is now disused.
- In addition to the outdoor bowling greens listed below, there is also an indoor bowls hall at Oldham Leisure Centre, which offers four rinks and is available for community use.
- Most bowling greens are owned and managed by the Local Authority, private ownerships or the respective sports club.
- Oldham, a total of 17 greens (52%) are assessed as good quality, 12 greens (36%) as standard quality with the remaining four being poor quality (12%).
- Furthermore, 13 sites are accompanied by good quality facilities, with nine sites having standard quality facilities and four sites having poor quality facilities.
- In Oldham, 10 greens are serviced by sports lighting.

Demand summary

- There are 31 bowling clubs identified as playing in Oldham although only eight have responded to consultation requests to date and given membership figures. Membership of the responsive clubs where known totals 575, resulting in an average of 72 members.
- The largest club according to known membership in Oldham is currently North Chadderton Conservative BC, with 152 members. The smallest club is Westwood Park Vets with only 12 members.
- Of responding clubs in Oldham, five clubs highlight plans to increase membership, however, don't quantify the amount.

PART 9: TENNIS COURTS

9.1: Introduction

The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) is the organisation responsible for the governance of tennis and administers the sport locally across Oldham. It has recently restructured its strategic approach to target several national focus areas, with a priority on developing the sport at park sites.

Consultation

There are four tennis clubs in Oldham: Clarkfield Tennis Club, Royton Cricket, Bowling, Tennis & Running Club, Saddleworth Cricket, Bowling & Tennis Club and Tame Valley Tennis & Squash Club. Only two clubs responded to consultation requests despite all clubs being contacted on several occasions, resulting in a 50% response rate as shown below. It should be noted that both clubs which responded to consultation requests are LTA registered venues. Background information on all clubs and sites has been provided by the LTA.

Table 9.1: Summary of consultation

Name of club	Responded?
Clarkfield Tennis Club	No
Royton Cricket, Bowling, Tennis & Running Club	No
Saddleworth Cricket, Bowling & tennis Club	Yes
Tame Valley Tennis & Squash Club	Yes

9.2: Supply

There are 81 tennis courts identified in Oldham across 29 sites. Of these, 51 courts across 21 sites are available for community use.

The largest offering of tennis courts is identified in the South Analysis Area, with 20 courts in total. In contrast, the Central and East analysis areas offer the least amount of tennis courts with 13 courts respectively.

Table 9.2: Summary of the number of courts by analysis area

Analysis area	No. of courts available for community use	No. of courts unavailable for community use
Central	9	4
East	10	3
North	9	7
South	15	5
West	8	11
Total	**51**	**30**

Please note that courts are classified as being available for community use provided that they are deemed to be easily accessible to the general population, either via pay and play or through a membership at a club (or a mixture of both).

Figure 9.1 shows the location of the courts servicing Oldham, regardless of community use. For a key to the map, see Table 9.2.

Figure 9.1: Location of tennis courts in Oldham

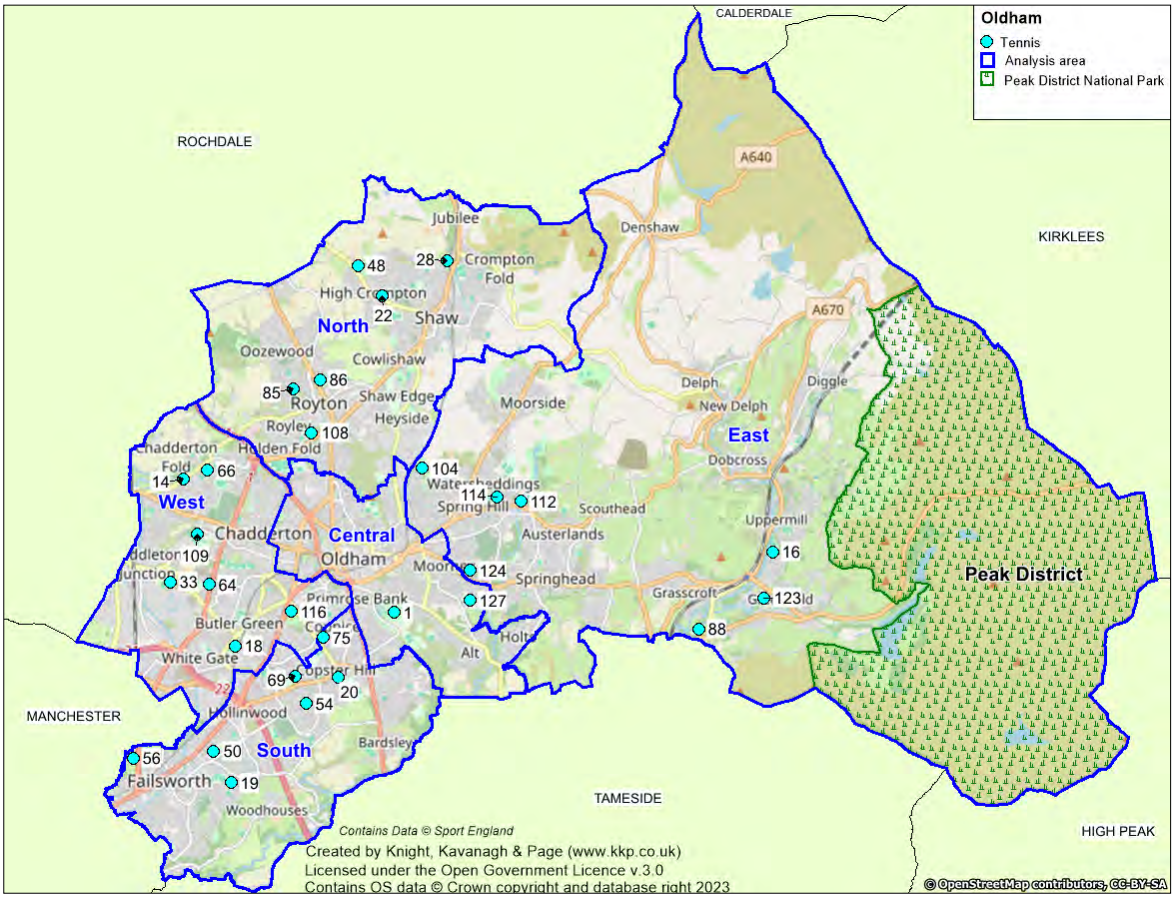


Table 9.3: Tennis courts in Oldham

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Ownership	Community use?	No. of courts	Sports lighting?	Court type	Court quality
1	Alexandra Park (Oldham)	OL8 2BH	Central	Local Authority	Yes	7	No	Macadam	Good
14	Chadderton Hall Park	OL9 0QP	West	Local Authority	Yes	3	No	Macadam	Good
16	Churchill Playing Fields	OL3 7AQ	East	Local Authority	Yes	1	No	Macadam	Poor
18	Coalshaw Green Park	OL9 8JP	West	Local Authority	Yes	1	No	Macadam	Poor
19	Co-op Academy Failsworth	M35 9HA	South	Education	Yes	3	Yes	Artificial	Poor
19	Co-op Academy Failsworth	M35 9HA	South	Education	Yes	3	Yes	Macadam	Standard
20	Copster Park	OL8 3AE	South	Local Authority	Yes	2	No	Macadam	Poor
22	Crompton House C of E School	OL2 7HS	North	Education	No	3	No	Macadam	Good
28	Dunwood Park	OL2 7UQ	North	Local Authority	Yes	3	No	Macadam	Good
33	Foxdenton Park	OL9 9QS	West	Local Authority	Yes	2	No	Macadam	Poor
48	High Crompton Park	OL2 7NW	North	Local Authority	Yes	2	No	Macadam	Good
50	Higher Memorial Park	M35 9DW	South	Local Authority	Yes	1	No	Macadam	Poor
54	Limeside Park	OL8 3SH	South	Local Authority	Yes	1	No	Macadam	Poor
56	Lower Memorial Park	M35 0DY	South	Local Authority	Yes	2	No	Macadam	Good
64	Newman RC College	OL9 9QY	West	Education	No	3	No	Macadam	Standard
66	North Chadderton School	OL9 0BN	West	Education	No	4	No	Macadam	Standard
69	Oasis Academy North	OL8 4JZ	South	Education	Yes	3	Yes	Macadam	Good
75	Hulme Grammar School	OL8 4BX	South	Education	No	5	No	Macadam	Poor
85	Royton Cricket Club	OL2 5TX	North	Sports Club	Yes	3	No	Macadam	Poor
86	Royton Park	OL2 6RL	North	Local Authority	Yes	1	No	Macadam	Poor
88	Saddleworth Cricket Tennis and Bowling Club	OL3 7HY	East	Sports Club	Yes	3	Yes	Macadam	Good
104	Stoneleigh Park	OL1 4LJ	East	Local Authority	Yes	1	No	Macadam	Poor
108	Oldham Academy North	OL2 5BF	North	Education	No	4	No	Macadam	Standard
109	The Radclyffe School	OL9 0LS	West	Education	No	4	No	Macadam	Good
112	Waterhead Academy	OL4 3NY	East	Education	No	3	No	Macadam	Standard
114	Waterhead Park	OL4 2HX	East	Local Authority	Yes	1	No	Macadam	Poor
116	Werneth Park	OL8 1RB	West	Local Authority	Yes	2	No	Macadam	Good

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Ownership	Community use?	No. of courts	Sports lighting?	Court type	Court quality
123	Tame Valley Tennis & Squash Club	OL3 7EW	East	Sports Club	Yes	3	No	Macadam	Good
123	Tame Valley Tennis & Squash Club	OL3 7EW	East	Sports Club	Yes	1	Yes	Macadam	Good
124	Clarksfield Tennis Club	OL4 1LW	Central	Sports Club	Yes	2	No	Macadam	Standard
127	Oasis Academy Leesbrook	OL4 5JE	Central	Education	No	4	No	Macadam	Good

Future supply

A planning application has recently been approved (FUL/347154/21) for the creation of two new external padel courts with a steel framed canopy roof located at Tame Valley Tennis and Squash Club.

Management and security of tenure

The table below highlights the management of tennis courts within Oldham. Most tennis courts are operated by education sites (39 or 48%); however, 30 are unavailable for community use. There are 12 (15%) tennis courts which are managed by sports clubs with the remaining courts (30 or 37%) being managed by the Local Authority.

Table 9.4: Tennis courts by management type

Community use?	Sports club	Local Authority	Education
Available	12	30	9
Unavailable	-	-	30
Total	**12**	**30**	**39**

Court type

Most outdoor tennis courts in Oldham have a macadam surface, with 78 being of this type and 65 of these being available for community use. The estimated lifespan of a macadam court is ten years, depending on levels of use and maintenance levels.

There are three courts with an artificial surface provided at Co-op Academy Failsworth. The estimated lifespan of such provision is similar to that of a macadam surface, although it generally allows for greater levels of access, especially during inclement weather spells. Nevertheless, the cost of resurfacing the courts is usually more expensive and more regular maintenance is required, in part due to them often catering for multi-sports activity (e.g., football and hockey usage).

Sports lighting

Courts with sports lighting enable use throughout the year and are identified by the LTA as being a key priority for growing participation nationally. The LTA reports that floodlights allow for a 35% increase in available court time on an annual basis.

In Oldham, 13 of the community available tennis courts are serviced by sports lights, representing just 19% of the provision.

A lack of sports lighting at many of the school sites presents a key reason as to why many of the courts are unavailable for community use.

Access to courts with sports lighting is considered particularly key at parks and club sites as it allows for more usage of provision. Both the LTA and the Council aspire to add sports lighting to tennis courts located at park sites. To that end, it must be noted that all tennis clubs in Oldham have access to sports lit courts apart from Royton Cricket Bowling, Tennis & Running Club.

The table below breaks down the number of courts which have sports lighting by analysis area.

Table 9.5: Summary of the number of courts which have sports lighting by analysis area

Analysis area	No. of courts which have sports lighting	No. of courts which don't have sports lighting
Central	-	13
East	4	9
North	-	16
South	9	11
West	-	19
Total	**13**	**68**

LTA Quick Access Loan Scheme[27]

The LTA's mission is to grow tennis and padel by making them accessible, welcoming, and enjoyable. Ensuring local communities have access to quality facilities is critical to attracting and retaining more players. As such, the LTA's Quick Access Loan Scheme aims to provide interest-free loans to support venues investment in facilities, prioritising the installation and construction of covered courts.

The objectives of the fund are to:

- Provide covered or sports-lit playing facilities to encourage community accessible play all year.
- Retain and increase the number of participants at the venue.
- Offer and increase both non-members pay and play usage and coaching opportunities.
- Grow the numbers of adults and juniors on the coaching programme.
- Provide seamless booking of tennis courts and lessons through an online booking system.

As part of the fund, the LTA will fund:

- Lighting upgrades to LED (outdoor and indoor).
- New sports lights.
- New court provision.
- Outdoor padel courts.
- Covered padel (courts and cover).
- Covered tennis courts.

Over markings

Tennis courts, particularly within school, are often over marked by netball, basketball and/or football courts. Courts which are over marked tend to receive higher level of use which can be detrimental to quality over time, as well as creating capacity issues if there is community demand from more than one sport.

In Oldham, 35 courts are overmarked by netball provision, with 33 of these located at school sites (Crompton House C of E School, Newman RC College, North Chadderton School, Oasis Academy North, Hulme Grammar School, Oldham Academy North, The Radclyffe School, Waterhead Academy and Oasis Academy Leesbrook) where curriculum activity makes this necessary.

[27] Quick Access Loan Scheme for tennis facilities (lta.org.uk)

Quality

The quality of tennis courts has been informed through non-technical site assessments (carried out January 2024) and consultation with providers to assign each court a rating of good, standard or poor. Key aspects informing the findings include surface quality, grip underfoot, line marking quality, evenness, and evidence of inappropriate use (e.g., vandalism and/or littering).

For the full assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2.

Of the courts in Oldham, 40 are assessed as good quality, 19 as standard quality and 22 as poor quality. Of the good quality tennis courts, 29 are available for community use.

Table 9.6: Quality of tennis courts in Oldham

Community use?	Good	Standard	Poor
2017			
Available	28	40	7
Unavailable	-	5	6
Total	**28**	**45**	**13**
2024			
Available	29	5	17
Unavailable	11	14	5
Total	**40**	**19**	**22**

The courts assessed as poor quality and available for community use are located at the following sites:

- Churchill Playing Fields.
- Coalshaw Green Park.
- Co-op Academy Failsworth.
- Copster Park.
- Foxdenton Park.
- Higher Memorial Park.
- Limeside Park.
- Royton Cricket Club.
- Royton Park.
- Stoneleigh Park.
- Waterhead Park.

Issues recorded at these sites include poor grip underfoot, the presence of moss, worn line markings and loose gravel, with maintenance also considered to be basic and infrequent at these sites. This leads to further deterioration in quality.

Across the four tennis clubs in Oldham, both Saddleworth Cricket, Bowling & tennis Club and Tame Valley Tennis & Squash Club are serviced with good quality tennis courts with no significant issues. Clarksfield Tennis Club is serviced with standard quality tennis courts and Royton Cricket, Bowling, Tennis & Running Club is serviced with poor quality tennis courts.

Renovation fund[28]

The LTA secured a £22 million investment fund to be put into park tennis courts across Britain, together with an £8.5 million investment from the LTA. This delivered thousands of public park tennis courts that were in poor or unplayable condition improved to playable facilities for the benefit of the local communities.

The LTA's ambition is to drive participation across park tennis sites, as well as ensuring the future sustainability of these facilities. As well as paying for the refurbishment of public park courts, the new investment will also pay for the implementation of sustainable operating models for the facilities, with specialist programmes and support to ensure courts are both affordable and utilised.

In Oldham, six sites accommodating 19 tennis courts have recently been upgraded as part of the LTA Parks Investment Strategy located at Lower Memorial Park (gate only), Werneth Park, Dunwood Park, High Crompton Park, Alexandra Park (Oldham) and Chadderton Hall Park.

Ancillary provision

Ancillary facilities servicing Tame Valley Tennis & Squash Club and Clarksfield Tennis Club are assessed as standard quality, with the facilities servicing Royton Cricket, Bowling, Tennis & Running Club and Saddleworth Cricket, Bowling & tennis Club assessed as poor quality with a need to modernise ageing facilities.

For non-club courts, ancillary provision is generally considered to be problematic, most of the sites do provide changing facilities and/or toilets, they are not specific for tennis and are generally too far away from the courts to be realistically used. Often, the facilities predominately service football/cricket pitch users and therefore are not readily available or suited to tennis court users. In some instances, quality is also poor.

Insight from the LTA indicates good quality ancillary facilities such as toilets, changing rooms and cafes encourage players to visit community available provision and stay for extended periods of time. Therefore, a potential way to increase usage of such provision would be to invest in suitable ancillary amenities, which can then also provide a source of income.

9.3: Demand

Competitive tennis

Of the two clubs in Oldham which responded to consultation, Saddleworth Cricket, Bowling & tennis Club and Tame Valley Tennis & Squash Club there is a total of 427 members. As a breakdown, this equates to 354 senior and 73 junior members as seen below.

Table 9.7: Current tennis demand by club

Club	No. of senior members	No of junior members	Total members
2017			
Clarkfield Tennis Club	4	-	**4**
Royton Cricket, Bowling, Tennis & Running Club	20	14	**34**

[28] Renovation Fund for tennis facilities (lta.org.uk)

Club	No. of senior members	No of junior members	Total members
Saddleworth Cricket, Bowling & tennis Club	30	20	**50**
Tame Valley Tennis & Squash Club	95	100	**195**
2024			
Clarkfield Tennis Club	-	**-**	**-**
Royton Cricket, Bowling, Tennis & Running Club	**-**	**-**	**-**
Saddleworth Cricket, Bowling & tennis Club	89	21	**110**
Tame Valley Tennis & Squash Club	265	52	**317**

Due to only two clubs (Saddleworth Cricket, Bowling & tennis Club and Tame Valley Tennis & Squash Club) responding to consultation requests, membership figures for Clarkfield Tennis Club and Royton Cricket, Bowling, Tennis & Running Club are unknown.

Participation trends

Nationally, the LTA has announced participation figures for 2022 showing sustained success in getting more people playing tennis more often, with growth across all demographics, regions and nations of Great Britain. This is particularly amongst 16-34 year-olds and those from lower socio-economic backgrounds.

The number of adults reporting that they had played tennis during the year increased 43% compared to the previous year (2021), rising from 3.3 million to 4.7 million from January through to December. This is the highest total recorded since 2017 and has continued the growth seen in 2018-19 before being interrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

In addition, more than two million adults play monthly, and this is the highest level recorded since the LTA started tracking this measure seven years ago. This means that the LTA has achieved the targets set out in its five-year 2018-23 strategy for adult annual and monthly participation one year ahead of schedule.

Finally, children's weekly participation in tennis has seen positive growth in the past year with over three and a half million children playing tennis and with an extra 328,000 children playing tennis in schools.

In Oldham, both Saddleworth Cricket, Bowling & tennis Club and Tame Valley Tennis & Squash Club report that demand has increased over recent years.

Informal and parks tennis

The LTA has developed a package of support for local authorities and other providers to grow the use of tennis courts by removing key barriers to participation. The three products are ClubSpark, Play and Gate Access, which are further detailed below.

ClubSpark – Improving the booking process

ClubSpark is a flexible and simple venue management platform with multiple products and applications to help venues, local authorities and coaches manage their sport. ClubSpark is a tool that is offered for free as part of LTA venue registration and allows administrators to manage all functions at their venue(s), including:

- Managed website - create and manage a mobile friendly website tailored to LA/club requirements to promote events and activities.
- Managed coaching – set up coaching lessons and courses online.
- Membership management - improve membership engagement by making it easier for the venue and for members to pay, renew and keep in touch (includes online payments, direct debits and the monitoring of revenue streams; membership modules can also be used to take season ticket payments for venues operating a non-traditional annual facility fee).
- Organise payments - set the way payments are taken, whether it's immediate pay and play, or bookable as part of a membership package.
- Court bookings – reduced administration for managing bookings; give staff, coaches, members and the general public access to book and pay for courts, classes or other resources online.
- Scheduling - set unique booking and price rules to suit the venue and enable lights to switch on/off automatically when linked to the LTA Premium Gate Access system.
- Book and pay remotely - customers can make bookings and payments for a venue anytime, anywhere via the real-time booking app.
- Reporting - ClubSpark allows administrators to view reports highlighting income, court usage, revenue and number of members and season ticket holders; this allows for identification of trends and patterns and evidence to demonstrate participation levels and impact.

Three clubs in Oldham; Royton Cricket, Bowling, Tennis & Running Club, Saddleworth Cricket, Bowling & tennis Club and Tame Valley Tennis & Squash Club use ClubSpark.

LTA Play

LTA Play is an aggregator that collects all booking and coaching information via ClubSpark pages and displays it for participants in one easy to view page. It allows players to search for venues close to them and provides booking options, removing the barriers of not knowing where courts are or how to book.

LTA Play provides a helpful customer journey, with a personal profile to review and manage bookings, and helpful reminders. Courts can be set to book for free of charge or at a fee agreed by the provider.

Smart Access

The LTA has developed two Smart Access gate access systems that work in association with ClubSpark to secure courts and to allow access to booked customers only. Members of the public can book a court online (making payment if required) and receive a four digit access code via email to enter using a courtside keypad. The gate access system then allows entry for the time booked if a correct code is entered.

There are two gate options available: SmartAccess Premium and SmartAccess Lite. The demands and needs of users plus the setup of the venue determines the most appropriate system for each site.

Nationally, the LTA report that in the last three years, sites with a gate access system installed have attracted 64,841 unique players, leading to 609,671 courts being booked. This has generated income of over £1 million.

Additional demand

The LTA operates various tennis initiatives across the Country which results in some courts receiving additional demand. Furthermore, there are other formats away from traditional tennis that can result in increased usage. These are all detailed below.

Barclays Local Tennis Leagues

Barclays Local Tennis League are less formal in comparison to established club play, offering greater flexibility and an opportunity for all abilities to engage in competition at local venues. The leagues are run by Local Tennis Leagues and are available to all aged 18 years and above, with administration and support based online. Players are organised into mixed sex leagues based on similar ability levels, with matches arranged between the two players at whatever time and court is agreed. The flexibility of play is conducive to the use of park sites which are typically more easily accessible.

In Oldham, there is no Barclays Local Tennis League that takes place currently.

Free Parks Tennis

The LTA are due to launch the LTA Free Parks Tennis offer. This is due to the following needs:

- Player Trends:
  - 35% of people who play tennis once per year or more do so in a park.
  - The most common type of play for park players is socially with friends or family.
- Barriers:
  - 25% of players cite not having anyone to play with as a barrier to playing more tennis.
  - 24% of players cite having nowhere to play or difficulty in accessing local courts as reasons why they do not play tennis more often.
  - 32% of these players say local courts are not affordable.
  - 75% of parks players consider themselves to be of beginner (41%) or improver (36%) standard, which is significantly lower than club players.
  - 22% of players state that a lack of equipment prevents them from playing tennis.

The key points of a free park tennis session are:
- Free for all players to book and attend.
- Run by a minimum of two trained and DBS checked Activators.
- Sessions should run all year round (weather depending).
- Run on a Saturday or Sunday morning at 10.00-11.00am.

Court requirements are for three courts minimum in parks that have this many, or two courts at two court sites – a three court site can have up to 34 players attending. The sessions are designed for those aged eight and over, but under eights can attend when accompanied by a parent.

Barclays Big Tennis Weekend

The Barclays Big Tennis Weekend is an LTA initiative which all registered venues can access. Clubs and venues have the ability to sign up to host open days, which are free of charge, and create a relaxed and welcoming environment for those new to tennis to participate. This in turn can potentially lead to the clubs attracting new members.

The LTA hosts three dedicated weekends a year (in May, July and September) that are the UK's biggest public tennis events. Furthermore, venues are able to run additional events outside these dates and will benefit from their events being promoted on the national LTA campaign website. All clubs running an open day are asked to promote a follow-on offer to all attendees, such as a reduced rate introductory membership or a number of free coaching sessions, to encourage people to continue playing after the event.

No sites in Oldham currently host or are scheduled to host a Big Tennis Weekend.

LTA Youth Programmes

The LTA provides children with the perfect opportunity to learn the fundamentals of tennis at an early age. Designed for children aged between 4-10, mini tennis utilises smaller courts, nets and rackets as well as lower-bouncing tennis balls to develop vital tennis skills and techniques.

The game is split out into five levels, with the LTA stating that each stage has key aims and goals as follows:

- Blue Stage: Age 4-6 – learn the basics.
- Red Stage: Age 6-8 – serve, rally and score.
- Orange Stage: Age 8-9 – develop a rounded game.
- Green Stage: Age 9-10 – test your skills.
- Yellow Stage: Age 10+ - take your skills further.

No mini tennis courts have been identified in Oldham.

Padel

For information regarding padel see Part 10: Padel.

Latent/unmet demand

Latent demand for tennis nationally is reported to be high by the LTA, which has an insight tool that suggests that 18% of the five million players that pick up a racket each year would play more often if key barriers such as poor promotion of opportunities to get on court, unclear booking journeys (especially those that are 'offline') and low quality facilities were addressed.

Furthermore, the LTA conducted some research to understand how the public feels about tennis and the main barriers to accessing the sport. The research was split into club, community and education sectors, the headline findings of which are below:

- Around five million people play once per year with the majority of this in parks.
- 46% of tennis played by those 14 years is on park courts.
- 80% of those that do not play tennis but would like to see parks as their first option.
- Barriers preventing use of courts located in parks include the quality of the courts, ease of booking and the number of courts available to play.

- Demand for tennis amongst those who stopped playing in the last five years is from 14 upwards.
- Although there is demand for tennis amongst working class individuals, the highest latent demand is from upper middle, middle and lower middle classes.

Further research carried out by the LTA suggests that many more people would play tennis if they knew where courts were located, particularly local authority courts. Its assertion is that better promotion would increase demand.

In addition, Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of the percentage of adults that would like to participate in tennis but that 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 3,744 people within Oldham, which represents approximately 1.5% of the Borough's population compared to a national average of 1.7%. This therefore suggests that unmet demand may be marginally lower than what would otherwise be expected.

Responding clubs report that existing membership can be accommodated on the current level of provision available to them and that no potential members are being turned away due to capacity issues. As such, no clubs report any latent or unmet demand, with the majority actively trying to recruit new members.

This suggests that the latent demand identified through other methods is for non-club activity, or that other barriers aside from facilities are preventing activity.

Future demand

Tame Valley Tennis & Squash Club has plans to increase membership, however, does not quantify the amount. Saddleworth Cricket, Bowling & tennis Club state plans to increase membership by 20 seniors and 20 junior members.

Away from club-based demand, it is considered that all remaining future demand will be picked up via the latent/unmet demand noted above and attracted to non-club and particularly local authority courts.

9.4: Supply and demand analysis

For club-based tennis, the LTA suggests that non-sports lit courts can accommodate a maximum of 40 members, whereas courts with sports lighting can accommodate 60 members. Using this, the table below identifies the capacity balance at all sites currently used by clubs, taking into account current demand.

As Clarkfield Tennis Club and Royton Cricket, Bowling, Tennis & Running Club didn't respond to consultation requests current demand is unknown.

Table 9.8: Capacity analysis (club courts)

Site ID	Site	Club users	Available for community use?	Current demand (members)	Current capacity (members)	Capacity balance (members)
85	Royton Cricket Club	Royton Cricket, Bowling, Tennis & Running Club	Yes	*Unknown*	120	*Unknown*
88	Saddleworth Cricket Tennis & Bowls Club	Saddleworth Cricket, Bowling & tennis Club	Yes	110	180	70

Site ID	Site	Club users	Available for community use?	Current demand (members)	Current capacity (members)	Capacity balance (members)
123	Tame Valley Tennis & Squash Club	Tame Valley Tennis & Squash Club	Yes	317	180	137
124	Clarksfield Tennis Club	Clarksfield Tennis Club	Yes	*Unknown*	80	*Unknown*

Saddleworth Cricket, Tennis and BC has sufficient capacity to accommodate its membership both now and in the future.

The guidance suggestions that Tame Valley Tennis & Squash Club is oversubscribed and that there are capacity issues at the site. The Club, however, states that this is now the case and if granted planning consent for two padel courts, pressure on its existing courts will be reduced.

Further investigation is required to determine capacity at both Royton Cricket Club and Clarksfield Tennis Club.

Away from clubs, although no courts are identified as having any capacity issues, precedence should be placed on improving the supply in ways that can meet unmet and latent demand identified.

9.5: Conclusion

In conclusion, where known through consultation, Saddleworth Cricket, Bowling & tennis Club has sufficient capacity to facilitate club demand, however, Tame Valley Tennis & Squash Club is operating over its perceived capacity. The Club gains access to good quality courts located at Tame Valley Tennis & Squash Club and doesn't report any capacity issues. It should be noted further investigation needs to be carried out with the two outstanding clubs to further understand any capacity issues.

For non-club courts, whilst no courts are identified as having any capacity issues, it cannot be said that supply is sufficient to meet demand due to the amount of unmet and latent demand evidenced both nationally and in the Borough. There is instead a clear need to improve the current supply in ways that can attract and better accommodate more users. This should include improving the current quality of provision given majority courts are currently poor quality, and in addition enhancing levels of sports lighting to allow for more usage.

Supply and demand summary

- **For club-based tennis, where known through consultation, Saddleworth Cricket, Bowling & tennis Club has sufficient capacity to facilitate club demand, however, Tame Valley Tennis & Squash Club is operating over its perceived capacity. The Club gains access to good quality courts located at Tame Valley Tennis & Squash Club and doesn't report any capacity issues. It should be noted further investigation needs to be done with the two outstanding club to understand any capacity issues.**
- **Away from clubs, although no courts are identified as having any capacity issues, precedence should be placed on improving the supply in ways that can meet unmet and latent demand identified.**

Supply summary

- There are 81 tennis courts identified in Oldham across 29 sites. Of these, 51 courts across 21 sites are available for community use.
- The largest offering of tennis courts is identified in the South Analysis Area, with 20 courts in total. In contrast, the central and east analysis areas offer the least amount of tennis courts with 13 courts respectively.
- All tennis courts identified as being unavailable for community use are located at school sites.
- Most tennis courts are operated by education sites (39 or 48%); however, 30 are unavailable for community use. There are 12 (15%) tennis courts which are managed by sports clubs with the remaining courts (30 or 37%) being managed by the Local Authority.
- Most outdoor tennis courts in Oldham have a macadam surface, with 78 being of this type and 65 of these being available for community use.
- In Oldham, 13 of the community available tennis courts are serviced by sports lights, representing just 19% of the provision.
- Of the courts in Oldham, 40 are assessed as good quality, 19 as standard quality and 22 as poor quality. Of the good quality tennis courts, 29 are available for community use.
- Ancillary facilities servicing Tame Valley Tennis & Squash Club and Clarksfield Tennis Club are assessed as standard quality, with the facilities servicing Royton Cricket, Bowling, Tennis & Running Club and Saddleworth Cricket, Bowling & tennis Club assessed as poor quality with a need to repair and update the facilities.

Demand summary

- There are four tennis clubs in Oldham.
- Of the two clubs in Oldham which responded to consultation, Saddleworth Cricket, Bowling & tennis Club and Tame Valley Tennis & Squash Club there is a total of 427 members. As a breakdown, this equates to 354 senior and 73 junior members.
- Three clubs in Oldham; Royton Cricket, Bowling, Tennis & Running Club, Saddleworth Cricket, Bowling & tennis Club and Tame Valley Tennis & Squash Club use ClubSpark.
- In Oldham, there is no Barclays Local Tennis League that takes place currently.

PART 10: PADEL

10.1: Introduction

Padel tennis is relatively new to Great Britain and is growing in popularity, particularly since its recognition as a sport and integration within the LTA. It is played mainly in a doubles format on an enclosed court and can be played in groups of mixed ages and abilities. The rules are broadly the same as tennis, although you serve under-arm and the walls are used as part of the game with the ball allowed to bounce off them.

In order to grow the sport, the LTA is focused on improving the infrastructure and the coach education pathway. At the end of 2020, there were 87 courts, whereas there were 350 at the end of 2023 and 129,000 identified participants, with this illustrating significant growth. It is therefore envisaged that the infrastructure and participation in padel will continue to increase substantially in the next five years, with the LTA identifying an aim to grow the number of courts to 1,000 and the number of players to 400,000.

10.2: Supply

There are currently no padel tennis courts within Oldham, however, Tame Valley Tennis & Squash Club has recently had planning permission approved for two additional covered padel courts.

Given the lack of current provision, the LTA reports that padel facilities should be considered in the near future to offer playing opportunities for residents. Linked to this, it has recently carried out a mapping exercise that sets out the level of provision that could be sustained within a local authority, based on population and demand, with this identifying that 19 courts are warranted in Oldham, however, it is likely more courts could be sustainable.

In terms of future supply, the LTA states that a variety of tennis environments can be considered, with padel courts often situated next to or managed by those running existing tennis facilities. To that end, padel court development at leisure centre sites can be particularly beneficial as provision can be tied into other sports facilities and profit from an already established operating model. Furthermore, they can benefit clubs and particularly those that may be otherwise struggling due to the additional revenue that they can provide.

Notwithstanding the above, the LTA also states that it is not encouraging clubs or local authorities to convert existing tennis courts to padel courts, unless a benefit to both tennis and padel can be evidenced. This is to ensure that the provision of traditional courts remains sufficient and the growth of padel is not to the detriment of tennis.

10.3: Demand

As of the end of 2023, 129,000 people reportedly play padel more than once a year in England, which represents a significant increase compared to 2021 data when the number was 15,000. This exemplifies the continued growth of the sport and the need to ensure that such demand is being adequately catered for. One of the LTAs key strategies is to find new ways to grow participation and padel is an innovative format of tennis that is fun, flexible, easy to play and extremely sociable.

As mentioned previously, there are currently no padel tennis courts in Oldham, although it is said that demand exists for courts to be established, with 19 courts identified by the LTA mapping as being needed relative to population. It is likely that the creation of courts would lead to high levels of use providing they were well located and advertised.

10.4: Conclusion

Given the information collated above, there is an identified need based on population demand amounting to 19 padel courts with no courts currently provided. Therefore, the LTA is supportive of plans for new provision to be established, however, should not be detrimental to tennis and where possible have a positive impact on both sports.

Supply and demand summary

- **Currently, given that no padel courts are provided in Oldham any padel demand is not being met. However, Tame Valley Tennis & Squash Club has recently had planning permission approved for two additional covered padel courts, demand should begin to be accommodated.**

Supply summary

- There are currently no padel tennis courts in Oldham. However, Tame Valley Tennis & Squash Club has recently had planning permission approved for two additional covered padel courts.

Demand summary

- The LTA has recently carried out a mapping exercise that sets out the level of provision that could be sustained within a local authority, based on population and demand, with this identifying a need for 19 courts in Oldham.

PART 11: ATHLETICS

11.1: Introduction

England Athletics (EA) is the not-for-profit membership and development body responsible for grassroots athletics and running in England. EA supports 1,750 affiliated clubs and organisations (covering track and field, road running, fell, hill, trail and cross-country clubs), 147,000 registered athletes, 18,700 licensed coaches and leaders, 3,800 officials and 6.2m regular running participants. EA's Athletics purpose is to inspire more athletes and runners of all abilities and backgrounds to fulfil their potential and to have a lifelong love for the sport. Their vision is for athletics and running to become an inclusive sport where everyone belongs and can flourish.

Future Provision

England Athletics strategic position is that in most areas of the country there is a sufficient supply of traditional synthetic outdoor 400m tracks to meet club and competition needs and that there should focus on protecting and maintaining this provision. In addition to traditional facilities, EA is keen to support the development of a new generation of innovative athletics & running facilities (NewGen), as well as a country-wide network of indoor athletics facilities developed as part of future indoor multisport projects.

Priority for both NewGen and indoor developments will be given to those areas that sit outside EAs recommended drivetime catchment of existing facilities or where there is additional, demonstrable demand.

NewGen facility concepts

Track & Field (run/jump/throw)

- **PlayTrack:** The simple animation of dated playground surfaces using colourful painted lines and markings to (KS1 & KS2) – encouraging participation in run/jump/throw activities by creating challenging and inspiring environments.
- **CompactTrack:** A sports-lit, multiple lane, synthetic sprint straight with optional jumps and throws provision.
- **MiniTrack:** A sports-lit synthetic "mini" running oval, with sprint straight, multi-sport "infield" and optional jumps and throws provision.

Recreational running/endurance running/multi sport

- **Active Track:** A free to access, macadam running / cycling circuit designed to be sympathetic to the local environment and support the recreational needs of local communities.
- Ideally lit by low level lighting / solar columns, ActiveTracks can be introduced to existing parks, open spaces and playing fields or integrated into the masterplanning of new housing developments.
- Sport England Case Study: ActiveTrack: Sowerby Sports Village

Consultation

There is one sole Track & Field Club in the Borough, Oldham & Royton Harriers Athletics Club. Consultation has taken place with the Club to inform this section of the report, together with data provided by England Athletics.

11.2: Supply

There is one formal athletics track in Oldham located at The Radclyffe School (West Analysis Area), which is an eight lane, synthetic 400 metre track. The track is fully sports lit and provides all accompanying field event facilities including a hammer cage, javelin, high jump, long jump and shot put area. The site also provides an indoor athletics hall which includes six running lanes, designated throws areas, high jump, long jump and pole vaulting.

Additionally, there is a five lane 100m synthetic track located at Oasis Academy Oldham which does not have sports lighting and is unavailable for community use.

Table 11.1: Summary of athletics tracks in Oldham

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Length	Surface type	Sports lighting
69	Oasis Academy Oldham	South	100m	Synthetic	No
109	The Radclyffe School	West	400m	Synthetic	Yes

Management

Both the indoor and outdoor athletics facilities at The Radclyffe School are owned by the Council and managed by Oldham Community Leisure which is also responsible for its maintenance. The track located at Oasis Academy Oldham is owned and managed by the Academy.

Quality

Key factors impacting upon the quality ratings of athletics facilities include the condition and age of the track surface, the prominence of the line markings and any signs of wear and tear or unofficial use. For the full site assessment criteria, please see Appendix 2.

The non-technical assessment undertaken in July 2024 by KKP identifies the track and accompanying track and field facilities as good quality with a standard quality accompanying ancillary facility. It should be noted that although the field facilities are assessed as good quality, the throws cage is currently awaiting repair. The indoor facilities are also assessed as good quality.

The 100m track located at Oasis Academy Oldham is assessed as poor quality due to lack of maintenance and moss over the track.

TrackMark[29]

TrackMark is UK Athletics' quality assurance scheme for outdoor track and field athletics facilities. A venue that achieves TrackMark is recognised by UK Athletics as having well managed, compliant facilities that are accessible to participants of all abilities. From 2021, venues that actively choose not to pursue accreditation are not eligible to apply for a competition licence at any level.

The athletics track located at The Radclyffe School is TrackMark compliant.

[29] https://www.uka.org.uk/about/what-we-do/facilities/

Ancillary facilities

The athletics track onsite at The Radclyffe Schol is serviced by a purpose built clubhouse beside the track. It consists of changing rooms, toilets, showers and kitchen facilities and is standard quality.

11.3: Demand

For the purposes of this study, athletics demand is considered to come in various forms, rather than just traditional track and field activity. As such, running clubs are also considered, as are organised running events and various running initiatives, some of which are governed by England Athletics. It is also acknowledged that recreational running forms a large part of demand, although this is difficult to measure.

Table 11.2: Summary of track and field club membership

Name of club	Home site	Number of members
Oldham & Royton Harriers Athletics Club	The Radclyffe School	243
-	**Total**	**243**

Oldham & Royton Harriers Athletics Club

Oldham & Royton Harriers Athletics Club is a large athletics club based at The Radclyffe School. It accommodates both male and female members at senior and junior level and covers the full spectrum of athletic activities including track and field, sports hall, cross country and road racing.

Royton Road Runners

The Club is a running club based in Royton and train Monday and Thursday evenings. It caters all running abilities and uses Royton Cricket Club as a meeting base.

Sip Running Club

Sip Running Club is a road running club that caters for runners of all abilities. It meets once a week on Wednesday at 18.00. Its clubhouse is located at Secret Sip/Courtyard in Royton.

Saddleworth Runners

The Club is a friendly running club based in Saddleworth. It accommodates both male and female members and primarily covers fell running and road racing.

ParkRun

ParkRun is a series of 5k runs held on Saturday mornings in areas of open space around the UK, with 1,063 events now operating across the Country. They are open to all, free, and are safe and easy to take part in. Runners must first register online in order to access a printed barcode which gives them access to all ParkRun events.

There are two ParkRuns located at Alexandra Park and Chadderton Hall Park. Furthermore, there are two junior ParkRuns located at Alexandra Park and Saddleworth Pool & Leisure Centre which are held every Sunday at 9am.

Table 11.3: Summary of ParkRun in Oldham

Location	Event	Number of events	Average annual attendance
Alexandra Park	ParkRun	647	13,459
Alexandra Park	Junior ParkRun	204	1248
Chadderton Hall Park	ParkRun	347	7383
Saddleworth Pool & Leisure Centre	Junior ParkRun	255	1115

Couch to 5k

Couch to 5k is a national health initiative promoted by the National Health Service (NHS) to encourage absolute beginners to get into running as part of establishing and maintaining and active and healthy lifestyle, including regular exercise.

The plan consists of three runs per week and a day of rest in between, with a different schedule for each of the nine weeks to completion. It starts with a mix of running and walking, to gradually build up fitness and stamina, in order to create realistic expectations and a sense of achievability to encourage participants to stick with it. The end goal of the plan is for the participant to be able to run 5k.

Through the Couch to 5k plan the NHS particularly promotes the health benefits of running and regular exercise which underpin the initiative, such as improved heart and lung health, weight loss and possible increases in bone density which can help protect against bone diseases such as osteoporosis. This also includes mental benefits of running through goal setting and challenge setting, which can help boost confidence and self-belief. Furthermore, running regularly has been linked to combating depression.

It is believed that an increase in people running through the Couch to 5k plan may increase interest and possibly have a knock-on effect of leading to increased demand at running groups and clubs as people may wish to continue develop their running further.

Latent/unmet demand

Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in athletics but 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies significant latent demand amounting to 4,521 people in Oldham, which represents approximately 1.8% of the Borough's population compared to a national average of 2%.

Oldham & Royton Harriers Athletics Club report to be operating a waiting list which currently includes nine potential new members due to the lack of volunteers.

Future demand

Oldham & Royton Harriers Athletics Club is not currently looking to increase its number of members as its currently operating a waiting list.

England Athletics also believes that demand is likely to increase in the future, particularly for initiatives such as ParkRun, although again to what extent is difficult to quantify.

11.4: Supply and demand analysis

It is considered that for an athletics track to be sustainable, a club membership of 200 is required. This is based on figures and consultation provided by England Athletics. In Oldham, supply is considered sufficient to meet demand, as the one community track and field club currently based in the Borough, Oldham & Royton Harriers Athletics Club) totalling 243 members, is above the recommended membership figure.

There is still a clear need to continue to grow levels of participation through actualising latent and future demand in order to ensure the long term sustainability of the indoor and outdoor track & field facilities at The Radclyffe School.

11.5: Conclusion

As only The Radclyffe School is currently used for club athletics, there is a need to protect the indoor and outdoor facilities and ensure that quality remains sufficient to accommodate the level of demand received.

Away from track and field, emphasis should also be placed on supporting the other activities taking place in Oldham, with a focus on retaining and increasing participation and growing the various initiatives that are in place.

Supply and demand summary

- **In Oldham, supply is considered sufficient to meet demand, as the one community track and field club currently based in the Borough (Oldham & Royton Harriers Athletics Club) totalling 243 members, is above the recommended membership figure. All other clubs are primarily road running clubs that do not access the track facilities.**

Supply summary

- There is one formal athletics track in Oldham located at The Radclyffe School, which is an eight lane, synthetic 400 metre track. The site also provides an indoor athletics hall which includes six running lanes, designated throws areas, high jump, long jump and pole vaulting.
- The track is fully sports lit and provides all accompanying field event facilities including a hammer cage, javelin, high jump, long jump and shot put area.
- Additionally, there is a five lane 100m synthetic track located at Oasis Academy Oldham which is not provided with sports lighting and unavailable for community use.
- The indoor and outdoor facilities at The Radclyffe School is owned by the Council and managed by Oldham Community Leisure who is also responsible for its maintenance. The track located at Oasis Academy Oldham is owned and managed by the Academy.
- The non-technical assessment undertaken in July 2024 by KKP identifies the track and accompanying track and field facilities as good quality with a standard quality accompanying ancillary facility. It should be noted that although the field facilities are assessed as good quality, the throws cage is currently awaiting repair. The indoor facilities are also assessed as good quality.
- The 100m track located at Oasis Academy Oldham is assessed as poor quality due to lack of maintenance and moss over the track.
- The athletics track onsite at The Radclyffe Schol is serviced by a purpose built clubhouse beside the track. It consists of changing rooms, toilets, showers and kitchen facilities and is standard quality.

Demand summary

- Four clubs have a current focus on athletics and/or running activity in Oldham.
- Oldham & Royton Harriers Athletics Club is the only track and field Club in Oldham using The Radclyffe School as a base.
- In Oldham, there are two ParkRuns located at Alexandra Park and Chadderton Hall Park. Furthermore, there are two junior ParkRuns located at Alexandra Park and Saddleworth Pool & Leisure Centre which are held every Sunday at 9am.
- Oldham & Royton Harriers Athletics Club report to be operating a waiting list which is currently includes nine potential new members.
- Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in athletics but 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies significant latent demand amounting to 4,521 people in Oldham, which represents approximately 1.8% of the Borough's population compared to a national average of 2%.

PART 12: NETBALL COURTS

12.1: Introduction

England Netball is the governing body with overall responsibility for ensuring the effective governance of the sport.

Whilst often played indoors, there are far more outdoor courts provided and in use by the netball community than there are indoor. Nationally, England Netball reports that the challenge is that the supply of outdoor netball courts is generally not of a good enough standard for use by the community, whilst accessibility can also be problematic.

Consultation

Information to inform this section of the report was primarily obtained through discussions with England Netball and club consultation.

There are three clubs in the Borough; Chadderton NC, Oldham NC and Saddleworth NC. Both Chadderton NC and Saddleworth NC have responded to consultation requests resulting in a 67% response rate.

12.2: Supply

There is a large supply of outdoor netball courts across Oldham, with 41 identified across 13 sites. Of these, 29 courts at 10 sites are available for community use; however, some of these courts are without sports lighting which limits usage during winter months. All of the courts that are unavailable for community use are located at education sites.

The South Analysis Area provides the largest number of courts, with 13. The Central Analysis Area provides the least number of courts with five.

Table 12.1: Summary of the number of courts by analysis area

Analysis area	Courts available	Courts unavailable
Central	1	4
East	7	-
North	8	-
South	9	4
West	4	4
Oldham	**29**	**12**

For a site-by-site breakdown of the courts supplied across Oldham, please refer to Table 12.2 and Figure 12.1 below.

Figure 12.1: Location of netball courts in Oldham

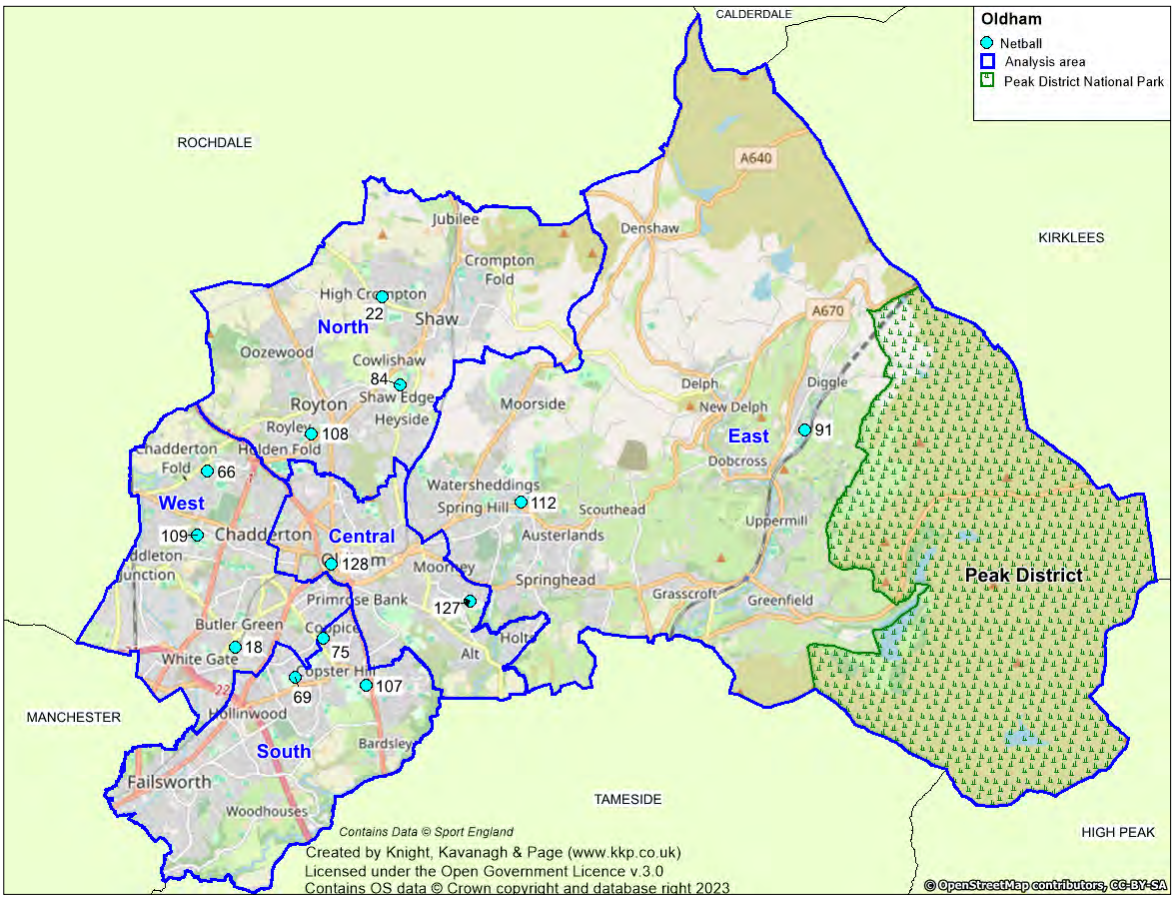


Table 12.2: Netball courts in Oldham

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis Area	Community use?	Ownership	Number of courts	Over marked?	Surface type	Sports lighting	Quality
18	Coalshaw Green Park	OL9 8JP	West	Yes	Local Authority	1	No	Macadam	No	Poor
22	Crompton House C of E School	OL2 7HS	North	Yes	Education	3	Yes	Macadam	No	Good
66	North Chadderton School	OL9 0BN	West	Yes	Education	3	Yes	Macadam	No	Standard
69	Oasis Academy Oldham	OL8 4JZ	South	Yes	Education	3	Yes	Macadam	Yes	Good
75	Hulme Grammar School	OL8 4BX	South	No	Education	4	Yes	Macadam	No	Poor
84	Royton & Crompton E-Act Academy	OL2 6NT	North	Yes	Education	1	No	Macadam	No	Good
91	Saddleworth School	OL3 5NU	East	Yes	Education	4	No	Macadam	No	Good
107	The Hathershaw College	OL8 3EP	South	Yes	Education	6	No	Macadam	Yes	Standard
108	Oldham Academy North	OL2 5BF	North	Yes	Education	4	Yes	Macadam	No	Standard
109	The Radclyffe School	OL9 0LS	West	No	Education	4	Yes	Macadam	No	Good
112	Waterhead Academy	OL4 3NY	East	Yes	Education	3	Yes	Macadam	No	Standard
127	Oasis Academy Leesbrook	OL4 5JE	Central	No	Education	4	Yes	Macadam	No	Good
128	The Brian Clark C of E Academy	OL9 6EF	Central	Yes	Education	1	Yes	Macadam	No	Good

Management

Although not uncommon across the Country, netball provision within Oldham is largely located on educational sites, with only one being located at a Council site, Coalshaw Green Park. This creates a particular issue surrounding community availability where there is often limited or reduced community access.

Table 12.3: Courts by management type

Community use	Council	Education
Available	1	28
Unavailable	-	12
Oldham	**1**	**40**

Court type

All outdoor netball courts in Oldham have a macadam surface, with all 41 being of this type and 29 of these being available for community use. The estimated lifespan of a macadam court is ten years, depending on levels of use and maintenance levels.

Sports lighting

Only nine netball courts (22%) are serviced by sports lighting with all nine being available for community use. These are located at:

- Oasis Academy Oldham.
- The Hathershaw College.

A lack of sports lighting on netball courts is an issue nationwide, with England Netball's national database (updated in April 2020) identifying that only 1,941 of 5,108 outdoor netball courts are sports-lit throughout the Country (38%). This is still higher than the level identified across Oldham (22%).

Over markings

Netball courts, particularly at school sites, are often over marked, predominately by tennis courts but also on occasion by basketball and/or football courts. Provision that is over marked tends to receive higher levels of use which can be detrimental to quality over time, as well as potentially causing capacity issues when there is external netball demand.

In Oldham, all but 12 of the netball courts are over marked. The only standalone courts are located at Coalshaw Green Park, Royton & Crompton E-Act Academy, The Hathershaw College and Saddleworth School.

Quality

The quality of netball courts has been informed through non-technical site assessments (carried out in January 2024) and consultation with providers to assign each court a rating of good, standard or poor. Key aspects informing the findings include surface quality, grip underfoot, line marking quality, evenness and evidence of inappropriate use (e.g. vandalism and/or littering).

For the full assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2.

Of the courts in Oldham, 20 are assessed as good quality, 16 as standard quality and five as poor quality. Of the good quality courts, 12 are available for community use, compared to 16 of the standard quality courts and only one of the poor quality courts.

Table 12.4: Quality of community available courts

Community use	Good	Standard	Poor
Available	12	16	1
Unavailable	8	-	4
Oldham	**20**	**16**	**5**

The poor quality courts are located at Coalshaw Green Park and Hulme Grammar School. Problems recorded during site assessments include poor grip underfoot, the presence of moss, worn line markings and loose gravel, with maintenance also considered to be basic and infrequent at most of the sites. It should also be noted that the courts located at Coalshaw Green Park is an open access site which is also likely to be affecting the courts quality.

In contrast, the good quality courts are supplied at:

- Crompton House C of E School.
- Oasis Academy Oldham.
- Royton & Crompton E-Act Academy.
- Saddleworth School.
- The Radclyffe School.
- Oasis Academy Leesbrook.
- The Brian Clark C of E Academy.

Of these, the courts at The Radclyffe School and Oasis Academy Leesbrook are unavailable for community use.

Ancillary provision

Ancillary provision is generally considered to be sufficient, whilst most sites provide changing facilities and/or toilets. Clubs which responded to consultation requests report no issues with ancillary facilities with most clubs turning up ready to play.

12.3: Demand

Demand for outdoor netball tends to come in two forms; league and club-based netball that consists of matches and training, as well as various netball-based initiatives such as Back to Netball and walking netball.

There are three netball clubs based in Oldham; Chadderton NC, Oldham NC and Saddleworth NC. Chadderton Netball Club use the indoor and outdoor courts at The Hathershaw College for training and competitive matches. Oldham NC use indoor courts at Oldham leisure Centre and Saddleworth NC use indoor courts at Saddleworth School.

Chadderton Netball Club

Chadderton Netball Club is a netball club which offers both performance and development training sessions, ensuring all players have access to high quality training, appropriate to their level of expertise. The Club uses the facilities both indoor and outdoor located at The Hathershaw College.

Oldham Netball Club

Oldham Netball Club is represented in the National Premier League Division One, the top club league in the country which sites on the level under the Netball Super league. The Club also competes in the North West Premier League and Champions League. It has junior teams running from under 9s to under 19s. home games are played indoor at Oldham Leisure Centre.

Saddleworth Netball Club

Saddleworth Netball Club is a netball club which was formed in 2012 and runs with the motto ‘Good, Better, Best’ regardless of age, players are motivated to improve, to achieve and strive to their potential. The Club hold training sessions four nights a week located indoor at Saddleworth School.

Back to Netball

Back to Netball is a scheme put into place by England Netball in 2010, with participation increasing ever since. Sessions are running weekly by qualified coaches across England with the aim of re-introducing female players over the age of 16 to the sport.

There is currently Back to Netball sessions running at Crompton House School and at Royton & Crompton E-Act Academy in Oldham. Furthermore, there is a Back to Netball League that takes place at The Waterhead Academy and The Oldham Academy North. All sessions are currently indoor but do often go outdoors in the summer.

Walking netball

Walking netball is a slower version of the sport, designed so that anyone can play regardless of age or fitness level. It can give those who are isolated an outlet, provide an activity for those who do not deem themselves fit enough and offer a stepping-stone for those looking for a pathway back into traditional netball.

Walking Netball sessions run weekly at The Oldham Academy North on a Mondays 18:00 until 19:00 and are held indoors.

Netball Now

Netball Now is a simple, straight forward way to play netball. It is not a competition led by rules or scores but rather a simple session where players can play a variety of positions and even have a go at umpiring.

There are no Netball Now sessions in Oldham.

Bee Netball

A new initiative by England Netball, Bee Netball a programme for children all about friendship, inclusion, fair play and teamwork, with each session managed by an England Netball accredited coach. There are no community sessions nationwide, England Netball are in the process of using trailblazer clubs to trial the programme. None of the clubs within Oldham are trailblazer clubs.

ParaNetball

England Netball have developed a ParaNetball Strategy and offer a diverse range of opportunities to play, train and develop and now we are excited to bring deaf and disabled women and girls into the Netball Family. There is no ParaNetball session that takes place in Oldham currently.

Unaffiliated demand

Nationally, there is a relatively strong presence of unaffiliated netball demand, most prominently through commercial leagues. These are generally aimed as casual and/or recreational players and are more informal than affiliated leagues, with teams and players paying for each match on a weekly basis. Rules can also differ slightly e.g., with shorter periods of play.

Oldham Sports for All is part of the Sport for All set-up (not affiliated), located indoors at Oldham Sports for All Centre. The centre accommodates both junior and senior netball leagues Monday – Thursday and weekends.

12.4: Supply and demand analysis

Based on the above, there is enough netball provision in Oldham to accommodate demand. There is minor use on outdoor courts in Oldham with only The Hathershaw College being used mainly due to the difficulty of gaining access to indoor courts during the exam season.

12.5: Conclusion

In summary, there is enough netball provision in Oldham to meet current demand, therefore a priority should be placed on improving quality of the standard and poor quality courts and ensuring courts remain. It should be noted that netball in Oldham is focused at school sites, whether it is outdoor or indoor, therefore securing long term community use of these sites is crucial for the growth of the sport. It is a key priority for England Netball to improve courts for affiliated netball sessions.

Supply and demand summary

- **There is enough netball provision in Oldham to accommodate demand.**
- **There is minor use on outdoor courts in Oldham with only The Hathershaw College being used mainly due to the difficulty of gaining access to indoor courts during the exam season.**

Supply summary

- There is a large supply of outdoor netball courts across Oldham, with 41 identified across 13 sites.
- Of these, 29 courts at 10 sites are available for community use.
- The South Analysis Area provides the largest number of courts, with 13. The Central Analysis Area provides the least number of courts with five.
- Most courts are operated by schools, with 40 of the 41 courts falling under this management type.
- All outdoor netball courts in Oldham have a macadam surface, with all 41 being of this type and 29 of these being available for community use.
- In Oldham, all but six of the netball courts are over marked. The only standalone courts are located at Coalshaw Green Park, Royton & Crompton E-Act Academy and Saddleworth School.
- Only nine netball courts (22%) are serviced by sports lighting with all nine being available for community use. Located at Oasis Academy North and The Hathershaw College.
- Of the courts in Oldham, 20 are assessed as good quality, 16 as standard quality and five as poor quality. Of the good quality courts, 12 are available for community use, compared to 16 of the standard quality courts and only one of the poor quality courts.

Demand summary

- There are three netball clubs based in Oldham; Chadderton NC, Oldham NC and Saddleworth NC.
- There is currently Back to Netball sessions running at Crompton House School and at Royton & Crompton E-Act Academy in Oldham. Furthermore, there is a Back to Netball League that takes place at The Waterhead Academy and The Oldham Academy North. All sessions are currently indoor but do often go outdoors in the summer.
- Walking Netball sessions run weekly at The Oldham Academy North on a Mondays 18:00 until 19:00 and are held indoors.
- There are no Bee Netball or Netball Now sessions currently taking place in the Borough.
- Oldham Sports for All is part of the Sport for All set-up (not affiliated), located indoors at Oldham Sports for All Centre. The centre accommodates both junior and senior netball leagues Monday – Thursday and weekends.

PART 13: GOLF

13.1: Introduction

Golf is the fifth largest participation sport in England, with around 730,000 members belonging to one of 1,750 affiliated clubs and a further two million people playing independently outside of club membership. There are an estimated 3,000 golf courses across the country, with approximately 90 designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest because apart from the intensively managed trees and greens they have other habitats with high wildlife value. Many other courses also exist within designated Heritage Coast sites, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, or listed Historic Parklands.

Nationally, the sport is governed by England Golf. Its role includes providing competitions for players of all ages and abilities, identifying and developing the most talented golfers, maintaining a uniform system of handicapping, administering and applying the rules, and introducing new golfers via its initiatives such as 'Get into Golf'.

Consultation

This section was informed via consultation with England Golf, which provided information relating to all facilities and clubs within Oldham.

13.2: Supply

There are three different types of golf facilities recognised by Sport England and governed by England Golf, as defined in the table below. Facilities such as pitch and putt courses and miniature/crazy golf courses not included as these are not considered to be traditional formats of the game and are not comparable offerings.

Table 13.1: Definitions of golf facilities

Facility type	Description
Standard	A standard par course, with a minimum of 9 holes but normally associated with 18-hole courses; many 9-hole courses have different tee boxes which allow the provision to be played as an 18-hole course. Some courses provide 27 holes, with any two loops of 9-holes played to make up an 18-hole round.
Par 3	Shorter length of holes than a standard course, with no hole longer than Par 3. Most likely to be a 9-hole course although 18-hole offerings do exist. Does not include pitch and putt courses, which are even shorter offerings and are not considered to be a traditional version of the sport.
Driving Range	Includes covered and uncovered driving range bays but not practice areas within golf courses; ranges are based on the hiring of balls, with users not required to retrieve, whereas practice areas are generally for members to use with their own balls (although a growing number have dispensers). Does not include 'entertainment' ranges or virtual offerings, although some driving ranges have expanded to also provide these features.

Within Oldham, there are seven golf venues that provide facilities conforming with the above definitions, as identified in Figure 13.1 and Table 13.2 overleaf.

Figure 13.1: Location of golf courses in Oldham

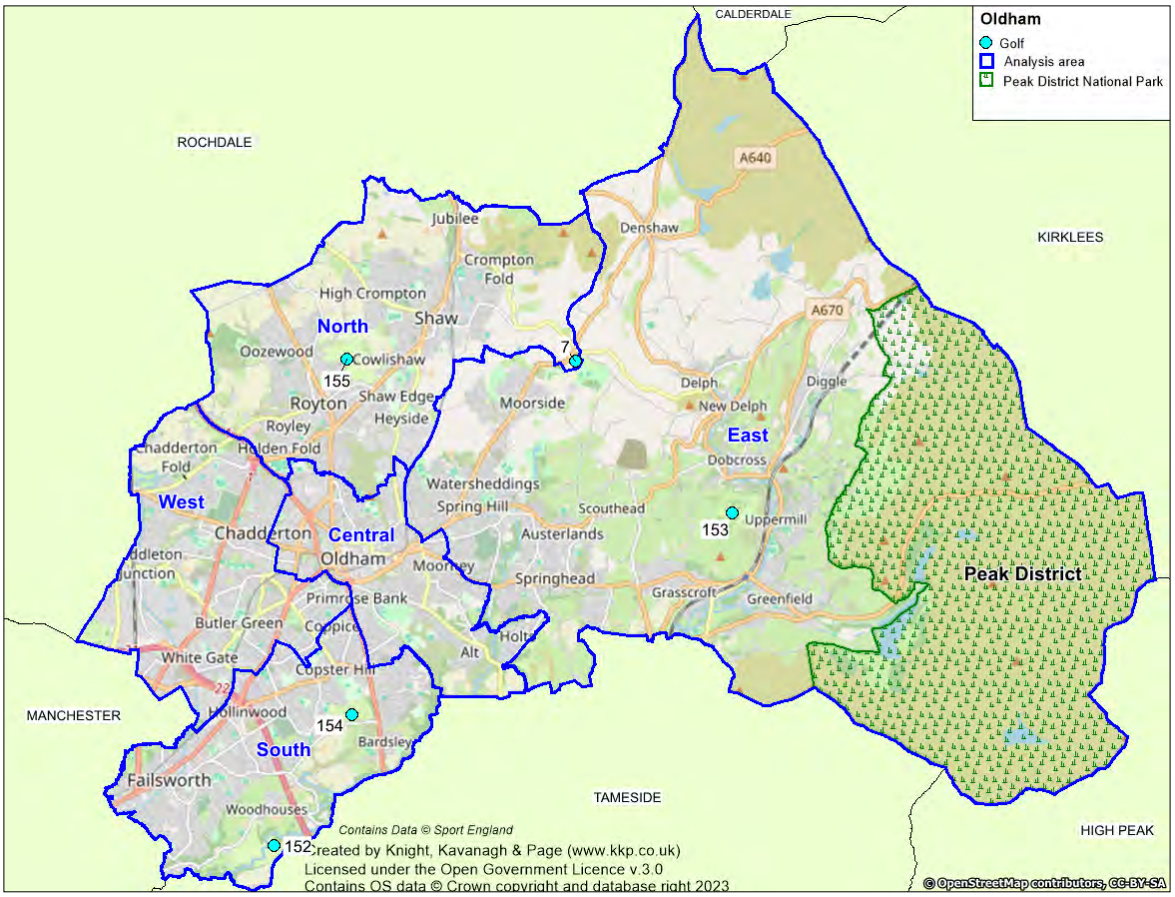


Table 13.2: Golf facilities within Oldham

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Postcode	Type
7	Bishops Park Pitch & Putt and Driving Range	North	OL4 2JZ	Standard (9) Driving Range
152	Brookdale Golf Club	South	M35 9WQ	Standard (18)
153	Saddleworth Golf Club	East	OL3 6LT	Standard (18)
154	Werneth Golf Club	South	OL8 3AZ	Standard (18)
155	Crompton & Royton Golf Club	North	OL2 6RW	Standard (18) Driving Range
156	Oldham Golf Club	Central	OL4 5PN	Standard (18)
157	Bardsley Park Golf Club	South	OL8 3JD	Driving Range

Standard hole golf courses

Across Oldham, there are five standard 18-hole courses across five sites. These are summarised in the table below.

Table 13.3: Summary of standard hole provision in Oldham

Site ID	Site name	Holes	Par	Yardage[30]			Slope rating
152	Brookdale Golf Club	18	69	5,832	5,619	4,962	121 - 128
153	Saddleworth Golf Club	18	71	6,073	5,867	5,289	123 - 131
154	Werneth Golf Club	18	68	5,366	5,224	5,121	122 - 124
155	Crompton & Royton Golf Club	18	70	6,208	6,047	5,450	104 - 140
156	Oldham Golf Club	18	66	5,055	4,815	4,562	112 - 119

Of the 18-hole courses, Crompton & Royton Golf Club provides the longest offering (6,208 yards), with Oldham Golf Club providing the shortest (4,562 yards). However, all courses are in the range of what you would expect from traditional provision. Shorter courses tend to offer some variety that may appeal more so to a defined market that would not feel comfortable playing lengthier provision e.g., beginner and/or casual golfers.

Slope ratings[31]

Slope ratings are new to golf across the World (established in 2021). The intention is for them to allow the handicap system to reflect course difficulty and the difference in difficulty for all players compared to scratch golfers. In effect, this enables each player to have a handicap that will vary from course-to-course, depending on difficulty, as well as a general handicap.

The maximum slope rating is 155, whereas the minimum is 55. The standard difficulty is considered to be 113, which means that the courses in Oldham are generally considered within this, with them collectively ranging from 104-140 (the slope rating varies depending on which tee is used).

Par 3 golf holes

Most commonly, Par 3 provision is used by beginner and casual players, although they are also frequented by more traditional golfers wanting to practice their short game.

There is only one dedicated Par 3 golf course located in the Authority namely Bishops Park Pitch & Putt and Driving Range (North Analysis Area). A summary of the course can be seen in the table below.

Table 13.4: Summary of Par 3 provision in Oldham

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Holes	Par	Yardage	Slope rating
7	Bishops Park Pitch & Putt and Driving Range	North	9	27	947 (Yellow)	87 (Yellow)

[30] White denotes Championship tees, yellow denotes men's tees and red denotes ladies' tees.
[31] https://www.randa.org/en/course-handicap-calculator

Driving range bays

Accumulatively, there are 40 dedicated driving range bays in Oldham across three sites, Bishops Park Pitch & Putt and Driving Range, Crompton & Royton Golf Club and Bardsley Park Golf Club. All three driving ranges are serviced by sports lighting to allow all-year round and late evening usage and are available for pay and play.

Table 13.5: Summary of driving range bays in Oldham

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of bays	Sports lit?	Pay and play?
7	Bishops Park Pitch & Putt and Driving Range	North	12	Yes	Yes
155	Crompton & Royton Golf Club	North	12	Yes	Yes
157	Bardsley Park Golf Club	South	16	Yes	Yes

Nationally, many driving range providers are updating their facilities with modern technology in a bid to increase demand, such as through the installation of automatic tees or via entertainment systems such as TopTracer and FlightScope. Such provision allows for users to simulate playing on courses across the world and provides ball tracking and statistical feedback.

In Oldham, only Crompton & Royton Golf Club currently have ball tracking technology installed.

Management and ownership

There are three main types of ownership and management models of golf facilities in England: members clubs, proprietary clubs and municipal facilities, as summarised in the table below.

Table 13.6: Types of ownership and management of golf facilities

Management type	Description
Members	A golf club owned, managed, and operated by its members who also own the facility from which they play from. They have responsibility for all aspects of the business operations and along with an operational workforce, rely on volunteers from within the membership to set the strategic direction.
Proprietary	A golf club owned and managed by an individual, family or corporation, sometimes forming part of a group or chain. They offer memberships, competitions, and social events but members generally have no strategic involvement with the business.
Municipal	These are generally owned by a local authority, although in most cases, management has been contracted and externalised to private companies. Due to a lack of financial viability, many have closed across the Country in recent years and many that remain are under threat. These facilities normally have small members clubs who utilise them, but who operate independently from the management of the facility.

It is recognised that members clubs and visitors to such clubs are normally expected to dress appropriately, have a registered handicap certificate (a certificate issued by the Council of National Golf Unions (CONGU)) and be familiar with the rules and etiquette of the game.

This is not uncommon at some proprietary clubs, but municipal courses tend to be more relaxed and do not require people to have handicaps, making golf much more accessible.

Consequently, municipal courses are, in many instances, seen as entry level facilities, with players using them before having the confidence to move on to a members' or high-end proprietary club (although many people can and do stay attached to a particular course). They also tend to offer a more affordable golfing experience.

The business model for members clubs tends to rely heavily on income through membership subscriptions and use of ancillary facilities, rather than from pay and play usage, although attention has somewhat switched at many sites in recent years due to demand falling. The same can be said for some proprietary clubs, although, in general, more emphasis is placed on supplementing regular activity with green fee sales. Conversely, municipal sites have always been heavily reliant on visitors even though membership packages are normally available (often in the shape of season tickets). On occasion, these can be linked to access to other local authority operated sports facilities, such as leisure centres and swimming pools.

Despite the above generalisations, each golf facility, regardless of management type, will have its own processes in terms of how much focus is placed on membership and pay and play usage, or whether it equally encourages both. There is no correct way to run a site. A club that focuses on members has guaranteed income, but this can often deter more casual players or nomadic golfers through, for example, a lack of peak time availability. In contrast, a site that depends on visitors can struggle to be viable if there are spells of inclement weather during summer months and can discourage people that want to be part of a club environment.

Of the six golfing sites in Oldham, four operate as members clubs, whilst two are proprietary sites.

Table 13.7: Summary of ownership/management in Oldham

Site ID	Site name	Management type
7	Bishops Park Pitch & Putt and Driving Range	Proprietary
152	Brookdale Golf Club	Members
153	Saddleworth Golf Club	Proprietary
154	Werneth Golf Club	Members
155	Crompton & Royton Golf Club	Members
156	Oldham Golf Club	Members

Pricing

A key issue for the wider golf population is whether golf courses are available to the general population at a price point which is accessible to the majority of residents. Better quality courses tend to cost more to use, whilst 18-hole provision is generally more expensive to access than 9-hole provision.

Nationally, over the past few years, many facilities have altered their pricing structures to allow for discounts following a previous decline in golf membership. England Golf has positively encouraged this as its view is that clubs are more likely to experience growth when flexible packages are available.

For instance, some now offer five and/or six day memberships (whereby members can access the course on specific days but not on one or both weekend days), whilst others provide discounts that are no longer limited solely to junior players (e.g. discounts for those aged 18-21 and 21-30 or for those aged 65 and over).

England Golf reports that the average cost of a full adult membership across the Country is currently £1,071. In Oldham, average membership fees, where known, are below this national average at £948.

The most expensive membership offerings are identified at Crompton & Royton Golf Club, whereby full membership fee amounts to £1,086.15. In comparison, the lowest full membership fee is identified at Oldham Golf Club, amounting to just £780.

Both Brookdale Golf Club and Oldham Golf Club are identified as having the cheapest green fees with midweek fees costing £17 and weekend fees costing £22.

Pricing at all the sites providing a course is summarised in the table below.

Table 13.8: Pricing structures at golf facilities within Oldham

Site ID	Site name	Joining fee	Full membership (per year)[32]	Green fee (per round) weekday	Green fee (per round) weekend
152	Brookdale Golf Club	-	£940	£17	£22
153	Saddleworth Golf Club	-	£1,052	£40	£50
154	Werneth Golf Club	-	£882	£19	£23
155	Crompton & Royton Golf Club	-	£1,086.15	£35	£40
156	Oldham Golf Club	-	£780	£17	£22

Quality

There are no official national or county golf facility rankings. Generally, the better course quality and supporting infrastructure is, the higher the joining/membership and green fees are likely to be. Some sites gain status through hosting county, national and international golf events and some tend to feature in ranking articles put together by golf magazines.

Quality of the golf facilities in Oldham is relatively good across the five sites, no significant issues identified.

The ancillary facilities are also for the most part good across the Oldham. Golf clubs often need such revenue sources to operate effectively and the provision of a good quality, well equipped clubhouse is a key opportunity to provide a secondary income stream. This emanates from a variety of sources including bar and catering income from members and visitors as well as venue hire for special occasions including weddings, christenings and funerals.

[32] Prices referenced are based on a full adult membership and do therefore not account for any discounts offered.

From a golfing perspective, given the current emphasis on increasing levels of female and junior golf membership across the country, it is also imperative that ancillary provision can adequately cater for all types of members e.g., by providing gender specific changing facilities.

12.3: Demand

Prior to the recent growth in demand, participation in golf had generally been in decline, with only recent signs showing that the reduction may have been levelling off. The landscape of demand has also changed, with fewer users taking up membership packages and more golfers becoming nomadic and using a range of courses on a pay and play basis.

The following section examines current demand for golf in Oldham as well as recent trends and potential future demand.

Membership

England Golf suggests that the average membership of a golf club nationally is 407, which is based on a central national handicap platform. In Oldham, the average across the clubs that operate a membership is currently 355 and therefore just below national average.

As seen in the table below, overall participation for golf across Oldham has increased from 2015 to 2024 by a total of 18% or 54 members.

There is a notable spike in membership from 2018 to 2022 which anecdotally can linked to the Covid 19 Pandemic, as the sport was one of first to become accessible whilst in periods of social distancing. The figures have decreased by 1% since 2022 however they are still just below the national average.

Data by club is not available as this is considered to be commercially sensitive information.

Table 13.9: Summary of golf membership within Oldham

2015 Average	2016 Average	2017 Average	2018 Average	2022 Average	2023 Average	2024 Average[33]
301	285	317	316	360	355	355

It should be noted that whilst some clubs will operate below the national average, this does not necessarily indicate insufficient levels demand. In fact, this could simply mean there is a particular emphasis on pay and play use, or it will take account of 9-hole courses having less capacity than 18-hole courses. At the members clubs with 18-hole courses, it is expected that most if not all will have a membership that is higher than average.

Where demand is especially low, England Golf can assist in this regard, primarily through a variety of tools that can be used to better understand the local market. There may also be opportunities for some clubs across the area to work more collaboratively in terms of creating pathways where appropriate to collectively cater for all types of players.

[33] Correct as of May 2024

Pay and play

Whilst pay and play usage has increased across England in recent years, usage figures within Oldham are not generally known as it is not something that is tracked by England Golf. However, it would be to lower at sites such as Brookdale Golf Club, Werneth Golf Club, Crompton & Royton Golf Club and Oldham Gold Club given that these are predominately focused on members and more expensive to play.

If facilities with low membership numbers do not have high green fee demand, long-term viability is questionable. Attracting pay and play usage is key to the business model and sustainability of such sites.

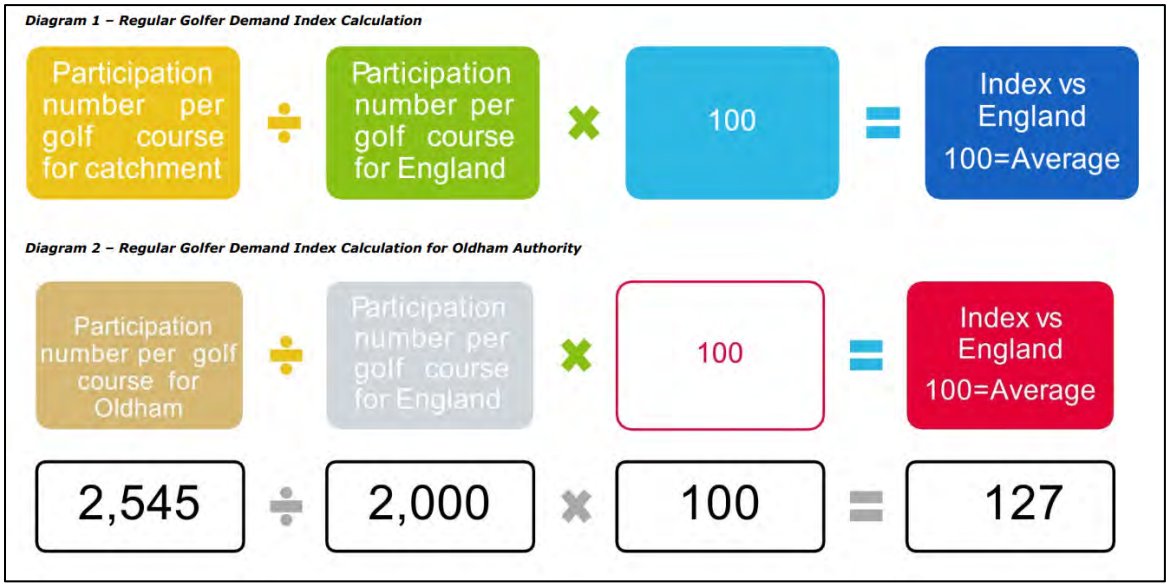
Relative demand

Nationally, England Golf utilises a figure of 3.5 million people that are considered to be regular golfers, with this defined as those that have played on a standard-length course at least twice within the last 12 months. Using this, it is able indicate how much demand exists per facility within a catchment area before then comparing this to a national benchmark.

Within the formula, it calculates the participation number in an area by establishing what proportion of the population is likely to be golfers, which can then be used to determine the number of participants per facility. This can then be compared to the national rate, with an index created for comparison purposes. Using 100 as the average, anything below this suggests that an area has either low demand or a high facility count, whereas anything above provides evidence that an area has high demand and/or a low level of provision.

The calculations for the catchment area for the Oldham Authority can be seen via the image below, as provided by England Golf.

Figure 13.2: Regular golfer demand index calculations for Oldham Authority



As shown, the index rating for the catchment area (127) is above the national benchmark (100). This therefore indicates that demand is high in comparison to the number of facilities available, which in turn suggests that no provision could be lost without the situation being exacerbated.

Exported/imported demand

Cross-boundary demand for golf is common nationally due to the nature of the sport. Golfers do not necessarily recognise local authority borders, and many will choose a facility for a whole range of reasons other than where it is located, with factors including quality, availability, cost and where friends/family play. This can be especially pronounced at venues located close to neighbouring authorities and if there is a comparative lack of provision within those authorities.

For Oldham, based on its geographical location there are to be anticipated levels imported demand particularly from more rural local authorities such as Tameside and Rochdale which have less choice in provision such as Par 3 and/or 9-hole courses.

Unmet demand

Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to golf facilities. This could be reflected via a waiting list at a club, although it is likely that people on a waiting list are still playing golf elsewhere, either via membership of another club or through pay and play access. As such, unmet demand in Oldham is considered to be very minimal, with most of the sites offering a membership scheme actively looking for new members and with ample opportunities for pay and play access. None of the clubs are known to have a waiting list.

Latent demand

Latent demand is demand for golf that is not currently being realised. This could be for numerous reasons, such as time constraints, financial reasons and a lack of suitable, available provision. To that end, Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in golf but 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 2,320 people within Oldham.

In addition, England Golf also has a mapping tool that enables an assessment of potential demand within a 20-minute drive time of each golf facility (which is considered to be a reasonable travel distance). This is based on research undertaken that identifies that 24% of adults in England are potential players, amounting to circa 9.6 million people and equating to 9% current players, 8% lapsed (former) players and 7% latent players. It can be used by providers to identify what demand may exist for their facilities, thus helping inform marketing, development and investment decisions.

Using the tool across Oldham, Werneth Golf Club is identified as having the largest potential demand, with 226,486 people falling within the segments within a 20-minute drive time. In comparison, Saddleworth Golf Club has the smallest potential demand, equating to 68,515 people.

The tool also breaks the potential playing population down into nine golfing segments, with these defined to help provide an indication as to what type of golfing offer each would be most likely to access. They are:

- Relaxed members.
- Older traditionalists.
- Younger traditionalists.
- Younger fanatics.
- Younger actives.
- Late enthusiasts.
- Occasional time pressed.

- Social couples.
- Casual fun.

The demand for each of the sites is relatively evenly split across the nine segments; the highest demand is from “Younger Traditionalists” (97,182 people), whilst the lowest is from “Casual Fun” (70,715 people).

Whilst the reasoning for the latent demand is unknown and is likely to be varied, the data does show relatively high demand which would significantly increase membership and/or pay and play usage across facilities if realised. England Golf is supportive of clubs/sites that proactively target new audiences in an attempt to tap into such demand i.e., through developing a variety of golfing offers, coaching programmes and a range of membership options.

Future demand

England Golf has an aim to increase membership of clubs nationally; however, after reaching its previous target, it no longer has a fixed goal in terms of growth. Nationally, many clubs, especially the most established ones, will be happy to retain current demand levels, whilst others will be open to growing and some considerably so. In that regard, England Golf reports that many providers are proactively targeting new audiences through coaching programmes and a wider range of membership and playing options.

In Oldham, each facility will have different aspirations in terms of future growth, with membership clubs such as Brookdale Golf Club, Werneth Golf Club, Crompton & Royton Golf Club and Oldham Gold Club to be more satisfied with current usage levels.

13.4: Supply and demand analysis

With seven golfing sites in Oldham and a mix of 18-hole courses, Par 3 courses and three driving ranges, the Authority is well placed to meet demand. This is especially the case given the various operational structures in place, with some facilities offering a high price point and others offering a low price point, and with some prioritising membership and others focusing on pay and play usage. This suggests that all types of golfers can be collectively catered for.

Additionally with a high Regular Golfing Index (127) in comparison to the national average (100) there is a need to protect current facilities, and perhaps look at increasing offering to cater for latent demand, particularly for Werneth Golf Club and or Younger Traditionalists.

13.5: Conclusion

There is a reasonable quantity of golfing facilities in Oldham that offer a good variety of facilities to ensure that all golfers can be catered for. However, demand is also very high, which means that all existing provision needs to be protected and potentially expanded to meet latent demand.

Supply and demand summary

- **With seven golfing sites in Oldham and a mix of 18-hole courses, Par 3 courses and three driving ranges, the Authority is well placed to meet demand.**

Supply summary

- There are currently seven golf sites in Oldham, five 18-hole and one Par 3 course across six sites. additionally, there are three driving ranges of which two are located alongside either an 18-hole course or a Par 3 course.
- There are three driving ranges located in Oldham, Bishops Park Pitch & Putt and Driving Range, Crompton & Royton Golf Club and Bardsley Park Golf Club, collectively providing 40 dedicated driving range bays.
- Quality of the golf facilities in Oldham is relatively good across the five sites, with no significant issues identified.

Demand summary

- In Oldham, there are five golf clubs, Brookdale Golf Club, Saddleworth Golf Club, Werneth Golf Club, Crompton & Royton Golf Club and Oldham Golf Club.
- Of the six golfing sites in Oldham, four operate as members clubs, whilst two are proprietary sites.
- England Golf reports that the average cost of a full adult membership across the Country is currently £1,071. In Oldham, average membership fees, where known, are below this national average at £948.
- The most expensive membership offerings are identified at Crompton & Royton Golf Club, whereby full membership fee amounts to £1,086.15. In comparison, the lowest full membership fee is identified at Oldham Golf Club, amounting to just £780.
- Both Brookdale Golf Club and Oldham Golf Club are identified as having the cheapest green fees with midweek fees costing £17 and weekend fees costing £22.
- England Golf suggests that the average membership of a golf club nationally is 407, which is based on a central national handicap platform. In Oldham, the average across the clubs that operate a membership is currently 355 and therefore just below national average.
- There is a notable spike in membership from 2018 to 2022 which anecdotally can linked to the Covid 19 Pandemic, as the sport was one of first to become accessible whilst in periods of social distancing. The figures have decreased by 1% since 2022 however they are still just below the national average.
- Sport England's Segmentation Tool identifies latent demand of 2,320 people within Oldham.
- In Oldham, each facility will have different aspirations in terms of future growth, with membership clubs such as Brookdale Golf Club, Werneth Golf Club, Crompton & Royton Golf Club and Oldham Gold Club to be more satisfied with current usage levels.

PART 14: MULTI USE GAMES AREAs (MUGAs)

14.1: Introduction

Multi use games areas (MUGAs) are a reference to any sport or games areas which are often used for social and recreational sport in the community and are generally categorised into typologies, as seen in the table below. To qualify as a MUGA, a facility should be minimum of a five-a-side football pitch (two tennis courts) in size and be marked out for at least three sports.

Table 14.1: Types of MUGAs

Type	Surface	Characteristics	Preferred sports
Type One	Open textured porous macadam	Used for ball rebound sports. Suitable for wheelchair sports.	Tennis and netball.
Type Two	Open textured porous macadam	Used for ball rebound sports. Suitable for wheelchair sports.	Tennis and netball.
Type Three	Polymeric surface over macadam	Used for ball rebound sports. Suitable for wheelchair sports.	Tennis and netball.
Type Four	Polymeric surface over macadam base	Due to their greater shock absorbency and lower surface friction, these areas are not recommended for tennis or netball.	Football, basketball and recreational activity
Type Five	Sand based or third generation turf (3G)	Shock pad and either heavily doused with water before play or filled or dressed with sand or rubber crumb	Formalised sports including hockey, football, American football, lacrosse and rugby.

14.2: Supply

There are 27 MUGAs identified in Oldham across 25 sites. Of these, all 27 are available for community use, however, only two MUGAs are sports lit.

Table 14.2: Summary of MUGAs in Oldham

Analysis area	Number of MUGAs
Central	6
East	9
North	5
South	4
West	3
Oldham	**27**

Table 14.3: Summary of provision

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Analysis area	No. of courts	Surface type	Sports lighting?	Size (meters)	Sports	Quality
14	Chadderton Hall Park	OL9 0QP	West	1	Macadam	No	27 x 15	Football, basketball	Standard
18	Coalshaw Green Park	OL9 8JP	West	1	Macadam	No	32 x 17	Football, basketball	Good
36	George Street Playing Fields	OL2 8HG	North	1	Macadam	No	50 x 25	Football, basketball	Standard
48	High Crompton Park	OL2 7NW	North	1	Macadam	No	30 x 15	Football, basketball	Standard
56	Lower Memorial Park	M40 3NL	South	1	Macadam	No	27 x 14	Football, basketball, cricket	Poor
104	Stoneleigh Park	OL1 4LJ	East	1	Macadam	No	35 x 30	Football, basketball	Standard
114	Waterhead Park	OL4 2HX	East	1	Grass	No	*Not enclosed*	Football	Poor
114	Waterhead Park	OL4 2HX	East	2	Macadam	No	32 x 25	Football, basketball	Poor
133	Princess Park	OL9 9PX	West	1	Macadam	No	27 x 15	Football, basketball	Standard
134	Afghan Street Park	OL1 4FG	East	1	Macadam	No	27 x 17	Football, basketball	Standard
135	Broadway Park	OL2 5DD	North	1	Macadam	No	30 x 15	Football, basketball	Poor
136	Pearly Bank Multiplay Area	OL1 4PQ	East	1	Macadam	No	27 x 17	Football, basketball	Poor
138	Whitehall Lane Playing Fields	OL4 2LS	East	1	Macadam	No	27 x 15	Football, basketball	Standard
139	Bardsley Play Wall	OL8 2TE	South	1	Grass	No	*Not enclosed*	Football, basketball	Poor
140	Beresford Street Muga	OL4 2BD	East	1	Macadam	No	23 x 14	Football, basketball	Poor
141	Becket Meadow MUGA	OL4 1PX	Central	1	Macadam	No	30 x 16	Football, basketball	Poor
142	Bolton Street MUGA	OL4 1BN	Central	1	Macadam	No	37 x 18	Football, basketball	Poor
143	Cherry Ave MUGA	OL8 2HP	South	1	Macadam	No	30 x 16	Football, basketball	Standard
144	Cottam St MUGA	OL1 2PJ	Central	1	Artificial	Yes	40 x 25	Football, basketball	Good
145	Granby St MUGA	OL9 8HD	Central	1	Macadam	Yes	30 x 18	Football, basketball, cricket	Standard
146	Higginshaw Lane MUGA	OL1 3JY	North	1	Grass	No	*Not enclosed*	Football	Poor
148	Lower MUGA	OL1 2LJ	Central	1	Macadam	No	28 x 20	Football, basketball	Standard
149	Stamford Drive MUGA	M35 9WS	South	1	Grass	No	*Not enclosed*	Football	Poor
150	Westminster Avenue MUGA	OL2 5XX	North	1	Macadam	No	32 x 18	Football, basketball	Standard
151	Wildmoor Avenue MUGA	OL4 5NZ	Central	1	Macadam	No	30 x 18	Football, basketball	Poor
156	Ladhill Lane MUGA	OL3 7JW	East	1	Macadam	No	41 x 33	Football, basketball	Standard

Future developments

Football Foundation PlayZones Programme

The Football Foundation, using investment from the Premier League, The FA and the Government via Sport England has released a new (2022) capital investment programme called the PlayZones Programme. This programme aims to engage with local communities across the Country to create outstanding sports and activity spaces and tackle inequalities in participation. The priority groups for the funding are:

- Lower socio-economic groups.
- Disabled people with people with long term health conditions.
- Women and girls.
- Ethnically diverse communities.

More details surrounding the aims and outcomes for the project and the requirements/stages for application can be found at:
https://footballfoundation.org.uk/playzones-programme

In Oldham, there are two sites identified for Playzones. These are for the refurbishment and improvement of existing facilities.

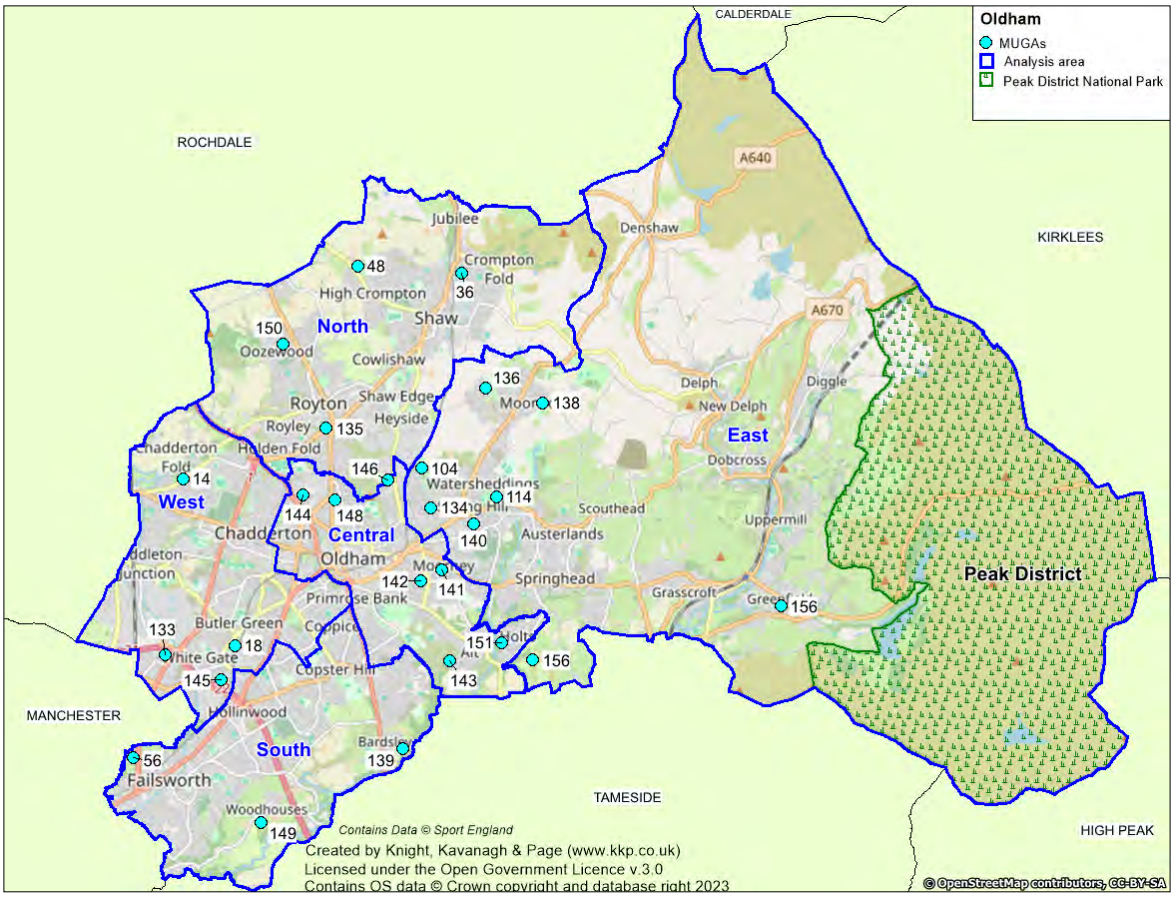
The Council applied for a refurbishment of an existing tarmacadam facility at Bolton Street (Central Analysis Area) to form a 30m x 20m, sports lit, tarmacadam PlayZone for football, basketball and cricket in Glodwick Oldham.

It has also applied for a refurbishment of an existing tarmacadam facility to form a 30m x 20m, sports lit, tarmacadam PlayZone for football, basketball and cricket in Werneth Park, Oldham (West Analysis Area).

Management

All MUGAs across Oldham are owned by Oldham Council and available as open access meaning they do not need to be booked. Anecdotal evidence suggests that they are well used in the summer months for activities such as informal football.

Figure 14.1: Location of MUGAs in Oldham



For a key to Figure 14.1, please refer to Table 14.3.

Quality

The quality of MUGAs across Oldham has been assessed via a categorisation of the scale and quality of provision, with matters such as quality of fencing, lighting, quality of surface and line markings determining the quality of the MUGA.

- Good.
- Standard.
- Poor.

The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows: Good (>80%), Standard (50-80%), Poor (<50%).

In total across Oldham, there are two MUGAs assessed as good quality, 12 assessed as standard quality and 12 assessed as poor quality.

Table 14.4: Summary of MUGA quality in Oldham

Analysis area	Good	Standard	Poor
Central	1	2	3
East	-	4	5
North	-	3	2

Analysis area	Good	Standard	Poor
South	-	1	2
West	1	2	-
Oldham	**2**	**12**	**12**

Of the poor quality MUGAs, the issues recorded at these sites include poor grip underfoot, the presence of moss, worn line markings and loose gravel, with maintenance also considered to be basic and infrequent at these sites. This leads to further deterioration in quality.

Sports lighting

The presence of sports lighting is considered to encourage more demand as it enables evening use all year round. However, it is also acknowledged that it also encourages higher levels unofficial use resulting in increased anti-social behaviour, vandalism and littering.

In total, only two MUGAs across Oldham are accompanied by sports lights, those being Cottam Street MUGA and Granby Street MUGA.

14.3: Demand

Given the open access nature of the MUGAs provided within Oldham, no usage data is recorded; meaning demand for access is therefore unknown.

14.4: Supply and demand

When looking at the locations of the current supply of MUGAs in Oldham it is evident that there is an adequate supply in all the analysis areas with at least one MUGA being provided.

Priorities should be set on improving the current stock of facilities across the Authority to ensure each analysis area has access to sufficient good quality provision.

Supply and demand summary

- **There is adequate supply in all analysis areas with at least one MUGA being provided.**

Supply summary

- There are 26 MUGAs identified in Oldham across 24 sites. Of these 26 are available for community use, however, only two MUGAs are sports lit.
- All MUGAs across Oldham are owned by Oldham Council and available as open access meaning they do not need to be booked.
- In total across Oldham, there are two MUGAs assessed as good quality, 12 assessed as standard quality and 12 assessed as poor quality.

Demand summary

- Given the open access nature of the MUGAs provided within Oldham, no usage is recorded; meaning demand for access is therefore unknown.
- When looking at the locations of the current supply of MUGAs in Oldham it is evident that there is sufficient supply across the authority as a whole and across each of the analysis areas.

APPENDIX 1: SPORTING CONTEXT

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

National context

The provision of high quality and accessible community outdoor sports facilities at a local level is a key requirement for achieving the targets set out by the Government and Sport England. It is vital that this strategy is cognisant of and works towards these targets in addition to local priorities and plans.

Department of Media Culture and Sport Get Active: A Strategy for the Future of Sport and Physical Activity (2023)

The Government published its new strategy for sport in August 2023. The 2015 government sport strategy, Sporting Future: A New Strategy for a More Active Nation, was a fundamental re-framing of sport and physical activity in the UK. It set out five outcomes delivered by sport and physical activity:

- Physical wellbeing
- Mental wellbeing
- Individual development
- Social and community development
- Sustainable economic development

This new strategy builds on the foundations of Sporting Future and retains these five outcomes at its core. In order to measure its success in producing outputs which accord with these aims it has also adopted a series of three core priorities, with seven indicators to achieve these priorities as follows:

- **Being unapologetically ambitious in making the nation more active**
  - Ensuring everyone is focused on increasing physical activity, meaning fewer inactive children, and narrowing the gap on inactivity where groups are not being reached, with visible progress across the country by 2030
  - Focusing on evidence, data and metrics
  - Setting the future direction for facilities and spaces where people can be active

- **Making sport and physical activity more inclusive and welcoming for all that everyone can have confidence that there is a place for them in sport**
  - Helping the sector to be welcoming to all
  - Improving how issues and concerns are dealt within the sector

- **Moving towards a more sustainable sector that is more financially resilient and robust**
  - Supporting the sector to access additional, alternative forms of investment
  - Working towards a more environmentally sustainable sector

Delivering against these priorities will help create a more active nation and a more sustainable sport sector. These aims are complementary; greater participation, stronger governance and confidence in the sector will help to drive investment, which in turn helps to attract new audiences. The vision is to make sport and physical activity accessible, resilient, fun and fair, for now and the years to come – for the benefit of individuals and the country.

Sport England Uniting the Movement: Our 10-year vision to transform lives and communities through sport (2021-2031)

Sport and physical activity makes people happier and healthier, and movement is the lens through which we can make that happen. It does the same thing for our communities, with life-changing, sustainable benefits that have huge economic and social value. That's why Sport England wants sport and physical activity to be recognised as essential to help overcome these national challenges.

The Strategy recognises the need to invest in sport and physical activity through NGBs, other sports bodies and local sports clubs, organisations and community groups to increase engagement for different groups as part of our core purpose. It states that there is now a need to go further in promoting movement in general as the means to unlock sport and activity for some people.

Tackling inequalities

There are deep-rooted inequalities in sport and physical activity, which means that there are people who feel excluded from being active because the right options and opportunities aren't there. These inequalities are at the very core of the Uniting the Movement.

Sport England plans on having a laser focus on tackling inequalities in all that it does, because providing opportunities to people and communities that have traditionally been left behind, and helping to remove the barriers to activity is vitally important.

National Planning Policy Framework (2024)

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 or qualitative deficiencies or surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

Paragraph 104 sets three criterion that ensures existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields and formal play spaces, should not be built on unless:

- An assessment has been undertaken, which has clearly shown that the open space, buildings or land 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 FA National Football Facilities Strategy (2018-28)

The Football Association's (FA) National Football Facilities Strategy (NFFS) provides a strategic framework that sets out key priorities and targets for the national game (i.e., football) over a ten-year period.

The Strategy sets out shared aims and objectives it aims to deliver on in conjunction with The Premier League, Sport England and the Government, to be delivered with support of the Football Foundation.

These stakeholders have clearly identified the aspirations for football to contribute directly to nationally important social and health priorities. Alongside this, the strategy is clear that traditional, affiliated football remains an important priority and a core component of the game, whilst recognising and supporting the more informal environments used for the community and recreational game.

Its vision is: *"Within 10 years we aim to deliver great football facilities, wherever they are needed"*

£1.3 billion has been spent by football and Government since 2000 to enhance existing football facilities and build new ones. However, more is needed if football and Government's shared objectives for participation, individual well-being and community cohesion are to be achieved. Nationally, direct investment will be increased – initially to £69 million per annum from football and Government (a 15% increase on recent years).

The NFFS investment priorities can be broadly grouped into six areas, recognising the need to grow the game, support existing players and better understand the different football environments:

- **Improve 20,000 Natural Turf pitches,** with a focus on addressing drop off due to a poor playing experience;
- **Deliver 1,000 3G AGP 'equivalents'** (mix of full size and small sided provision, including MUGAs - small sided facilities are likely to have a key role in smaller / rural communities and encouraging multi-sport offers), enhancing the quality of playing experience and supporting a sustainable approach to grass roots provision;

- **Deliver 1,000 changing pavilions/clubhouses,** linked to multi-pitch or hub sites, supporting growth (particularly in women and girls football), sustainability and providing a facility infrastructure to underpin investment in coaching, officials and football development;
- **Support access to flexible indoor spaces,** including equipment and court markings, to support growth in futsal, walking football and to support the education and skills outcomes, exploiting opportunities for football to positively impact on personal and social outcomes for young people in particular;
- **Refurbish existing stock to maintain current provision,** recognising the need to address historic under-investment and issues with refurbishment of existing facilities;
- **Support testing of technology and innovation,** building on customer insight to deliver hubs for innovation, testing and development of the game.

The FA: Survive. Revive. Thrive. (2020-24)

This new strategy aims to ensure the grassroots game in England will survive, revive, and thrive over the next four years.

The strategy outlines seven transformational objectives through to 2024:

- **Male Participation:** Modernised opportunities to retain and re-engage millions of male participants in the game.
- **Female Participation:** A sustainable model based on a world-class, modernised offer.
- **Club Network:** A vibrant national club network that delivers inclusive, safe local grassroots football and meets community needs.
- **Facilities:** Enhanced access to good quality pitches across grassroots football.
- **Grassroots Workforce:** A transformation in community football by inspiring, supporting and retaining volunteers in the game.
- **Digital Products and Services:** An efficient grassroots digital ecosystem to serve the administrative and development needs of players, parents, and the workforce.
- **Positive Environment:** A game that's representative of out diverse footballing communities, played in a safe and inclusive environment.

This strategy was launched as grassroots football was able to safely return after lockdown from Monday 29 March, it also identifies the immediate challenge, in light of COVID-19, to get grassroots football back on its feet.

The new strategy sets out a number of goals to revive the game by addressing the areas that require particular attention. This includes increasing opportunities to ensure girls have the same access as boys to football in schools and clubs, and improving quality of pitches, with the aim od seeing 5000 good quality pitches added to the current number by 2024.

The FA: Inspiring Positive Change Through Football (2024-28)[34]

The FA launched its new Strategy which aims to 'take English football forward, with clear focus on the biggest opportunities and challenges that need to be addressed'.

To achieve this, eight key strategic priorities are identified which include four 'Game Changer' objectives and four 'Drivers' objectives as detailed below. The strategy also outlines how The FA's plans to achieve these objectives.

Game Changers:

- Win tournaments
  - Develop pathways
  - Support elite players
  - Enhance environments
  - Collaborate and influence
- A game free from discrimination
  - Boost representation
  - Drive more inclusion
  - Tackle discrimination

[34] FA Strategy 2024-2028: The Football Association

- Equal opportunities for women & girls
  - Increase school participation
  - Increase club participation
  - Enhance women's competitions
  - Support female coaches and referees
- Transform the pitch landscape
  - Sustain and grow high-quality grass pitches
  - Deliver new 3G pitches
  - Support inclusivity accessibility and environmental sustainability of facilities

Drivers:

- Thriving community clubs
  - Develop club opportunities
  - Support the current and future generation of club leaders
  - Equip clubs to add long-term value to local communities
- World-class FA cups
  - Broaden commercial appeal
  - Evolve the Adobe Women's FA Cup format
- Participant led
  - Place participants at the centre of decision making
  - Create flexible models to meet participants needs
  - Provide digital tools to improve experiences
- Progressive governance
  - Support integration of women's and girls' football
  - Support governance of the NLS
  - Support our County Football Associations (CFAs)

The FA: Reaching Higher (2024-28)[35]

The FA's 2020-2024 strategy, 'Inspiring Positive Change', coincided with record growth across the sport, with more women and girls playing, coaching, officiating and supporting the flourishing professional game than ever before.

This strategy aims to build on the success achieved to date and strives to continue working to unlock the full potential of the women's and girls' game. The strategy outlines four strategic priorities as seen below.

1. **Build and Protect the Uniqueness of the Women's Game**: Continue to honour the history of women's football and recognise those who have contributed towards making it so unique, whilst ensuring the distinct qualities and unique culture of the women's game are valued and protected.
2. **Win a Major Tournament**: Continue to be world-leaders both on and off the pitch, developing players and building an inclusive talent pathway system to make football more equal and accessible at every level of the game, ensuring the England pathway and teams represent society.
3. **Build Robust, High-Quality Competition**: Create compelling competition structures and support clubs to develop to the appropriate level within the game, while enabling people to grow and develop within The FA's competition structures.
4. **Deliver Equal Opportunities for Women and Girls to Play**: Sustain growth in schools whilst tackling inequalities. Continue to grow the number of female teams and deliver vibrant league offers whilst extending and enhancing the sessional football offer. The ambition is for 90% of schools to deliver equal access for girls to play football in key stages two and three.

[35] The FA Womens & Girls Football Strategy 2024-28

There are five golden threads which weave through each of the four strategic priorities and across all levels of the women's and girls' game, which will be instrumental for delivering the next phase of growth by 2028:

1. **Female Health and Wellbeing:** Develop the game to support women and girls with their health and wellbeing needs, providing them with environments in which they can thrive.
2. **Safeguarding:** Support the evolution of an ever-safer culture across the women's and girls' game.
3. **Refereeing:** Grow and nurture a new generation of referees who are representative of our society.
4. **Coaching:** Support and develop brilliant coaches capable of unleashing every player's potential in a safe and inclusive game.
5. **Diversity and Inclusion:** Ensure the game is more reflective of our society.

England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Inspiring Generations (2020-2024)

The England and Wales Cricket Board unveiled a new strategic plan in 2019. The strategic plan aims to connect communities and improve lives by inspiring people to discover and share their passion for cricket

The plan sets out six important priorities and activities, these are:

- ***Grow and nurture the core***
  - Create an infrastructure investment fund for First Class County Clubs (FCCs)
  - Introduce a new Community Investment Funding for FCCs and County Cricket Boards (CCBs)
  - Invest in club facilities
  - Develop the role of National Counties Cricket
  - Further invest in County Competitions

- ***Inspire through elite teams***
  - Increase investment in the county talent pathway
  - Incentivise the counties to develop England Players
  - Drive the performance system through technology and innovation
  - Create heroes and connect them with a new generation of fans

- ***Make cricket accessible***
  - Broaden crickets appeal through the New Competition
  - Create a new digital community for cricket
  - Install non-traditional playing facilities in urban areas
  - Continue to deliver South Asian Action Plans
  - Launch a new participation product, linked to the New Competition

- ***Engage children and young people***
  - Double cricket participation in primary schools
  - Deliver a compelling and coordinated recreational playing offer from age five upwards
  - Develop our safeguarding to promote safe spaces for children and young people

- ***Transform women's and girls' cricket***
  - Grow the base through participation and facilities investment
  - Launch centres of excellence and a new elite domestic structure
  - Invest in girls' county age group cricket

- Deliver a girls' secondary school programme

- ***Support our communities***
  - Double the number of volunteers in the game
  - Create a game-wide approach to Trust and Foundations through the cricket network
  - Develop a new wave of officials and community coaches
  - Increase participation in disability cricket

The Rugby Football Union Strategy 2021 Onwards

Through the strategy, the RFU aims to enrich lives, introduce more people to rugby union and develop the sport for future generations. The goal is to achieve this by strengthening and uniting rugby union in England and producing consistently winning England teams.

Eight key strategic priorities are identified with all investment decisions aligned to these. The strategy also outlines the RFU's core activities which form the backbone of its business operations and services to the game.

The priorities include four 'Game Objectives' and four 'Driving Objectives' as detailed below.

Game Objectives:

- Enjoyment – enable positive player experiences on and off the field
- Winning England – create the best possible high-performance system for England Rugby
- Welfare – enhance player welfare to protect and support the wellbeing of players
- Flourishing rugby communities – support clubs to sustain and grow themselves and to reflect society

Driving Objectives:

- Diversity & Inclusion – drive rugby union in England to reflect the diversity of society
- Understand – build a deep understanding of players, volunteers and fans to shape the future of the game
- Connect – connect with and grow the rugby community and create exceptional experiences
- Commercial and operational excellence – ensure a sustainable and efficient business model delivered by an inspired workforce

England Hockey Strategy (2023 – 2028)

England Hockey's Facilities Strategy can be found here.

Aiming to make hockey more noticeable, relevant, and accessible to all, England Hockey have launched their new strategy 'Creating a Future for Our Game Together' on 3rd October.
The new strategy is a continued effort to re-engage with the current hockey community and to reach out to potential newcomers to introduce them to hockey.

Underpinning the strategy and of importance to the hockey community are four values, "collaborate inclusively, care for people and places, play with spirit win with grace and resilient in everything we do".

The strategy is the culmination of two years consultation with various stakeholders across the sport and larger sporting sector. Hockey will be guided by five key objectives over the next five years.

1. Lead Positive Change: to create and champion positive change within the community by broadening and widening the engagement of the sport and making it more ethnically and culturally diverse.
2. Meaningful Growth: to make sure that our sport thrives and grows into the future, we want to nurture a love of hockey within a more diverse group of young players and communities to reflect society.
3. Drive Visible Impact: to produce and release high-quality, engaging content that shares the love of the game, captures the passion, builds a deep connection and amplifies the voices of the hockey community with new and existing participants.
4. Responsible Leadership: to provide forward thinking, compassionate and inclusive leadership. Leadership that fosters trust within physically and psychologically safe environments and which puts players, the community and sustainability at heart of every decision.
5. Inspirational International Success: inspirational club and national teams delivering podium success in Europe and on the world stage, underpinned by a thriving talent system and domestic game.

The strategy aligns with Sport England's 'Uniting the movement' strategy and UK Sport's Powering Success, Inspiring Impact' strategic plan.

Rugby Football League – National Community Facilities Strategy (2024 – 2030)

The RFL has developed a new National Facilities Strategy which will guide investment into the game from 2024 through to 2030. The proposed investment package aligned to the Strategy will not only transform facilities, but also bolster the sport's social impact, reinforcing its position as a vital part of the nation's sporting and social fabric.

The four focus areas of the Strategy are:

- **Security of Tenure** – allowing clubs to plan for the long-term
- **Accessible and Inclusive Facilities** – providing suitable facilities for all and creating safe spaces for the wider community
- **Adequate and Appropriate Pitch Provision**– investment both in playing surfaces, and in upskilling a volunteer workforce to maintain them
- **Sustainability**– both environmental and financial

The Strategy will deliver on the four focus areas by delivering against a set of five recommendations which are set within the Strategy and are detailed below. These recommendations reflect the wider strategic aspirations across the sport and are for the RFL to work to deliver.

- **Focus Community Clubs**
  - Ensure the RFL has sufficient capacity and resource to deliver the recommendations identified within this Strategy to support its community clubs.
  - Ensure all community clubs have the knowledge and resource to provide good quality grass pitches.
  - Supporting clubs to have good quality changing and social facilities which can support the scale of need at each club. These must be inclusive for all participants and benefit target user groups such as women and girls' participants.

- Ensure clubs can accommodate a sustainable operational programme for clubhouses to ensure the longevity of provision.
- Work with clubs and key partners to increase the number of clubs with secured tenure of their club facilities.
- Develop a dedicated funding programme which is specifically aimed at supporting clubs to gain security of tenure at their respective site.
- Highlight success stories and best practices from community clubs to inspire others and showcase the positive impact of these efforts.

- **Deliver positive social and environmental impact**
  - Support clubs through training and advice on how to promote facilities for non-rugby league purposes.
  - Work with Active Partnerships across England to enable higher usage and activation of rugby league assets for non-rugby league activity.
  - Prioritise clubs for wellbeing hubs which may offer the widest social benefit (relative to local need) – particularly those in high deprivation areas.
  - Use the activation of club facilities as a prerequisite to capital funding for club house improvements / new development.
  - Collaborative working with sports partners and key agencies

- **Collaborative working with sports partners and key agencies**
  - Ensure continued working with Sport England and National Governing Bodies of other sports to capitalise on shared investment opportunities.
  - Work with the Football Foundation to maximise Multi-Sport funding opportunities – utilising the framework provided in this Strategy as the baseline of shared investment.
  - Work closely with Active Partnerships in areas with high club densities to establish opportunities for pitch access via the Open School Facilities programme.
- **Technological solutions**
  - Ensure the RFL gathers greater levels of information from clubs via affiliation. To include (e.g.) security of tenure information and an integrated self-assessment audit of community facilities.
  - Continue expanding the use and application of PitchPower so all clubs can self-assess provision and support clubs to make positive contributions to improving the quality of grass pitches.
  - Promote technological solutions which progress clubs into being more sustainable, energy efficient and ensure their long-term viability as community assets.
  - Create a platform or resource hub where clubs can access information on funding opportunities, facility management, and sustainable operational practices.
- **Working with Charitable Community Organisations and Wheelchair Rugby League**
  - Develop an investment package to support the operational delivery of professional club foundation led wheelchair activity focusing on storage and logistical solutions.
  - Prioritise capital investment into community club sites which also accommodate professional club foundations as tenants for community Rugby League activity.
  - Begin work on the feasibility of developing a national wheelchair centre which includes exploring partnership opportunities with other sports to maximise multisport value and return on investment.
  - Consult with professional club foundations, where possible, to understand the need for 3G access and work to ascertain sufficient access hours during peak times of need.

England Netball

In November 2021 England Netball launched a 10-year 'Adventure Strategy' for the game with a new brand identity for the organisation.

England Netball's 'Adventure Strategy' shares a purpose-led ambition for the game, to build on the momentum the sport has seen in recent years and take it to new heights for the decade ahead.

The 'Adventure Strategy' outlines the intention to:-

- accelerate the development and growth of the game at every level, from grassroots to the elite,
- elevate the visibility of the sport, and
- lead a movement to impact lives on and beyond the court.

At the heart of its purpose, England Netball, with its proud and unique female foundations, will remain dedicated to increasing opportunities for women and girls to play the game as a priority, working tirelessly to address the gender participation gap in sport that has widened since the global pandemic.

Underpinned by years of engaging with and delivering netball for female communities, the organisation pledges to understand, support and nurture women and girls more deeply at every life stage, at every age.

The organisation is also committed to opening the sport to new audiences in every community, so netball better represents the rich diversity of the country it proudly represents, and ensures the sport continues to evolve and adapt to thrive in the future, helping to create a truly inclusive sport for all where everyone can belong, flourish and soar. A recent partnership announcement with England Men's and Mixed Netball Association (EMMNA) to help develop and grow male participation in the game, supports this commitment as England Netball pledges to promote difference and embrace the opportunity to make the sport a possibility within everyone's reach.

Transforming netball for children and young people is a strategic priority to protect the future of the sport. Working with schools and policy makers to extend physical literacy within, and after the school day with a focus on netball specific provision will pave the way for greater community participation. The organisation will accelerate the expansion of its Bee Netball programme for young children, whilst supporting teens and young women to stay in the game to keep them physically active and in the game for life.

The elite game is in focus too, with the ambition for the Vitality Roses to be the best female sports team in the world, supporting the national team to consistently win on the world stage, with an outstanding talent pathway in place to fuel sustainable successes on court, and setting new standards for netball. The professionalisation of the game over the next decade is a priority, focusing on growing world-leading international and domestic competitions and events, and creating more careers in the sport.

Grounded in feedback from the Netball Family, with over 3,000 members and stakeholders consulted as part of the strategic process to understand what they wanted netball to 'look like' in 2031, the plan is aspirational and ambitious and sees the organisation pledge to continue to be a trailblazer for women's sport as it embarks on its new adventure.

Facility Development

The facility development aspirations stated within the Strategy are to:-

- Take a fresh look at the spaces required to support the sport, creating accessible places in every community to allow netball to be incorporated into how and where women and girls live their lives;
- Protect, enhance, and extend the network of homes that house the sport at a local and regional level;
- Develop an elite domestic professional competition that supports full time athletes underpinned by a world class infrastructure and environments.
- For England Netball to achieve its ambitions to make the game accessible to wider audiences and in every community, it encourages Local Authorities to adopt policies within Playing Pitch Strategies and Built Facilities Strategies that:-
- Facilitates informal netball activity within neighbourhood multi use games areas for example by installing combined outdoor basketball and netball goals and art courts in Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs).
- Incorporates the cultural and health needs of women and girls within any designs for improved or new facilities.
- Protects and enhances netball facilities within all Primary and Secondary School environments so they offer a positive first experience of the sport for students and the wider community during out of school hours.
- Supports the installation of floodlights on outdoor courts to increase all year-round use.
- Facilitates the development of netball growth programmes, club training and competition within public leisure centres.
- Where appropriate, supports the development of netball homes and performance environments that enable local women and girls to pursue a career in netball as an elite athlete, official, coach or administrator.

Tennis in Britain - LTA Strategy

The LTA's vision for 2019 – 2023, Tennis Opened Up includes seven strategies relating to three objectives which are built around its mission 'to grow tennis by making it relevant, accessible, welcoming and enjoyable'.

Objectives:

- Increase the number of fans on our database from [623,602] to [1,000,000] by 2023.
- More people playing more often;
  - Increase the number of adults playing tennis each year from [7.7% (4,018,600)] of the population to [8.5% (4,420,460)], and the frequency of adults playing tennis twice a month 2.5% 1,311,800 to 1.9% 1,500,000 by 2023.
  - The number of children playing tennis once a week from 550,000 to 700,000 (7.9% to 10% of the population) by 2023.
- Enable 5 new players to break into the top 100 by 2023 and inspire the tennis audience.

Strategies:

1. Visibility -Broaden relevance and increase visibility of tennis all year round to build engagement and participation with fans and players.
2. Innovation - Innovate in the delivery of tennis to widen its appeal.
3. Investment - Support community facilities and schools to increase the opportunities to play.

4. Accessibility - Make the customer journey to playing tennis easier and more accessible for anyone.
5. Engagement - Engage and collaborate with everyone involved in delivering tennis in Britain, particularly coaches and volunteers to attract and maintain more people in the game.
6. Performance - Create a pathway for British champions that nurtures a diverse team of players, people and leaders.
7. Leadership - Lead tennis in Britain to the highest standard so it is a safe, welcoming, well-run sport.

British Crown Green Bowling Association

Please note there is no current facility guidance provided by British Crown Green Bowling Association responsible for crown green bowls in England.

http://bcgba.org.uk/index.html

England athletics strategy plan 2021 – 2032: Athletics and runners at the heart – creating opportunities, enhancing experiences and powering potential.

This strategy ensures a robust and clearly defined future direction for the sport which places athletics and runners at the heart of everything we will do over the 12 year period to 2032.

England Athletics overarching purpose and visions are:

Purpose: 'To inspire more athletics and runners of all abilities and backgrounds to fulfil their potential and to have a lifelong love for the sport.'

Vision: 'For athletics to become an inclusive sport where everyone belongs and can flourish.'

At the heart of this plan, and the focal point for everything England Athletics do, are the people and communities involved in athletics across the following five areas:

1. Clubs, Club Leaders and facilities
2. Competition
3. Coaches and officials
4. Participation: young people and running
5. Talented athletes

Each has its own unique challenges and opportunities, yet also the opportunity to positively influence the success and growth of the other areas.

There are four key supporting activities that will be essential in enabling us to deliver the strategic priorities and ultimately achieve goals:

- Provide strong leadership that builds trust and respect by creating an open and positive culture.
- Embrace technology and reduce our environmental impact by putting digital first and encouraging innovation and creativity.
- Ensure greater engagement through sharing of high-quality insight, information and content.
- Develop commercial minds to maximise funding opportunities and diversify income.

England Golf Course Planner – Strategic Direction (2021-2025)

England Golf has always had a mission to lead, support, inspire and deliver for its community of golfers, golf clubs and counties. To help enable this, its Course Planner forms the core of its strategy, with 18 guiding principles established that are designed to best position growth in the game:

- Strengthen governance in all aspects of the sport
- Deliver safeguarding throughout the golfing community
- Utilise data and technology to enhance decision making
- Drive equality and equity in everything it does
- Support golf clubs with member recruitment and retention
- Connect and engage with all golfers
- Inspire and educate golf's network of volunteers
- Increase golf's influence
- Advocate and inform on all elements of sustainability
- Drive diversity at all levels of golf
- Create more opportunities for junior and young adults
- Promote the health and wellbeing of golf
- Inspire more women and girls to play golf
- Develop greater access for disabled people
- Enthuse all golfers through relatable role models
- Communicate a positive perception change for golf
- Deliver an excellent talent development pathway
- Host best-in-class competitions for all golfers

https://www.englandgolf.org/englandgolfstrategy/

APPENDIX 2: NON TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT SHEETS

Grass football pitch non-technical assessment sheet

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Football

Please complete one form per pitch

Site reference:		Site Name:	
6 figure grid reference		Pitch ID(s):	
Number of football pitches on site:		Pitch size:	(Adult 11v11, Youth 11v11, 9v9, 7v7 Mini, 5v5, 7v7)
Availability		Are any other pitches marked out over this pitch?	
		If yes, please indicate what pitches are overmarked? (i.e. one youth pitch is overmarked on a adult pitch) in Pitch Issues	
Weather at time of visit & date of visit			
Pitch Issues:			

Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)

Element (Gathered via a non technical site assessment)	Rating						Guidance notes	Comments
Playing surface								
Grass Cover	Good >80%		Adequate 60-80%		Poor <60%		Advice is to walk through the middle of the pitch	
Does the pitch meet The FA minimum size?	Yes - as per the FA recommended size		Within FA recommended guidelines		No		See size chart below for recommended dimensions	
Slope of pitch (gradient and cross fall)	Flat		Moderate		Severe			
Length of grass	Good		Too long		Too short		Good 30mm-50mm, Too long 51mm plus, Too short 29mm less	
Evenness of pitch	Good		Adequate		Poor			
Problem Areas: Evidence of dog fouling/glass/litter/vehicle tracks	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots			
Problem Areas: Evidence of unofficial use/damage to the surface	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots			
Problem Areas: Evidence of poor drainage	No evidence of standing water or poor drainage		Some evidence of poor drainage		Yes, poor drainage			
Maintenance programme (information from maintenance schedule/grounds team/club survey)								Section total
Grass cutting	Yes, as required		Yes, but not frequent enough		No			
Seeded	Yes, as required		Not known		No			
Aerated (per year)	Three or more times		Once/ twice		No			
Sand dressed	Within the last 12 months		Within the last 2 years		No			
Fertilised	Within the last 12 months		Within the last 2 years		No			
Weed killed	Within the last 12 months		Within the last 2 years		No			
								Section total

NB If none of this information is provided you should assume that only the grass is being cut and the rest of the maintenance items should be marked with the lowest score option.

PITCH SCORE	0.0%	RATING	Poor

Cricket pitch non-technical assessment sheet

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Cricket

Please complete one form per pitch

Site reference		**Site Name**	
6 figure grid reference		**No of Pitches:**	
Pitch ID		**No of wickets:** Natural	Non turf
Weather at time of visit:			
Availability			

Community Use - used, Community Use - unused, No Community Use, Available but Unused

General comments/observations

*You will need a cricket ball and ruler to assess wicket quality as indicated

Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer).

Element	Rating						Guidance notes	Site comments (use the guidance notes to help complete)
About the cricket outfield								
Grass coverage	Good		Acceptable		Poor		<80% falls below the ECB basic standard	
Length of grass	Good		Acceptable		Poor		Ideally 12mm - 25mm	
Evenness	Even		Uneven				Ball should run without deviation or ramp	
Evidence of Dog fouling/glass/stones/litter?	None		Yes		Immediate action required		May also wish to refer to user survey. If yes, refer to contractor/site manager	
Evidence of Unofficial use?	None		Yes		Immediate action required		e.g. informal, casual use, unbooked use, kids kickabout etc. May also wish to refer to user survey. If yes, refer to contractor/site	
Evidence of Damage to surface?	None		Yes		Immediate action required		e.g. from vermin/animals - rabbit, gulls and foxes etc may also wish to refer to user survey	
Artificial Wickets								**section total**
Is the wicket and surrounds married in	Yes		No				There should be no trip points	
Evenness of wicket	Even		Uneven				There should be no contours in surface levels	
Stump holes	Yes		No				Should be no wider than a standard cricket ball	
Moss or materials in the surface	Yes		No				There should be none	
Rips or surface lifting	Yes		No				If "yes" contact site manager	
Surface worn in high traffic areas - creases	Yes		No				If "yes" contact site manager	
Hardness - does the ball rebound when thrown straight down?	Yes		No					
Grass Wickets								**section total**
Presence of line markings	Yes		No					
Evidence of rolling	Yes		No				i.e. is wicket smooth and uniform	
Evidence of straight cut and height	Yes		No				3mm on match wicket/12mm rest of square	
Evidence of repair work on old wickets	Yes		No					
Grass coverage (square and wickets)	Yes		No				Scale: 80%+ = Yes, 80%> = No Please note that <80% falls below the ECB basic standard	
Hardness - does a cricket ball thrown straight down into the surface rebound/bounce?	Yes		No					
Changing/ Pavilion								**section total**
Umpires provision	Yes		No					
Toilets	Yes		No					
Hot/cold water	Yes		No					
Heating	Yes		No					
Condition of building	Good		Acceptable		Requires attention			
Non Turf Cricket Practice Nets								**section total**
Is the wicket and surrounds married in (no trip points)	Yes		No					
Evenness of wicket (no contours in surface levels)	Even		Uneven					
Stump holes (no wider than a standard cricket ball)	Yes		No					
Moss or materials in the surface (should be none)	Yes		No					
No rips or surface lifting	Yes		No					
Surface worn in high traffic areas - crease	Yes		No					
Hardness - does the ball rebound when thrown straight down	Yes		No					
Is the steel frame/ posts upright?	Yes		No				Ideally assessed with a spirit level but can be achieved by eye.	
Are steel cross members detached?	Yes		No					
Are all posts and net fixings in place?	Yes		No					
Can a ball pass through any part of the netting?	Yes		No					
Is appropriate safety/ supervisory signage present?	Yes		No					
								section total

Maximum score	**180**

Scoring	Score	Percentage Score	Facility Present?
Outfield	0	0%	No
Artificial Wickets	0	0%	No
Grass Wickets	0	0%	No
Changing/Pavilion	0	0%	No
Non Turf Practice	0	0%	No
Overall score	**0**	**0%**	

Potential Rating: **Poor**

Rugby union pitch non-technical assessment sheet

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Rugby Union

Please complete one form per pitch

Site reference		**Site Name**	
6 figure grid reference		**Pitch ID(s)**	
Date of assessment		**Pitch size**	(Senior, Mini/Midi)
Number of pitches on site		**Are any other pitches marked out over this pitch?**	
Availability		*If yes, please indicate what pitches are overmarked? (i.e. one mini/ midi pitch is overmarked on a senior pitch) in Pitch Issues*	
Community Use - used, Community Use - unused, No Community Use, Available but Unused			
Weather at time of visit			
General comments/observations			

Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)

Qualitative information (gathered on site)	**Rating**								**Guidance notes**	**Comments**
Grass Coverage	Good		Adequate		Poor				>90% = good. <80% = poor	
Size of pitch	Acceptable (between recommended minimum and maximum sizes)		Flag for further investigation (below recommended minimum size)		Unacceptable (above maximum size)				Maximum size = width 70m, goal line to goal line 100m, in goal area 22m, run offs 5m where practical. Recommended minimum size = width 68m, goal line to goal line 94m, in goal area 6m, run offs 5m where practical.	
Length of grass	Too Long		Good		Too short				Too long = >75mm. Too short = <50mm	
Problem Areas: Evidence of glass/litter/vehicle tracks/dog fouling	None		Yes - some		Yes lots					
GOALPOSTS										
Are goalposts installed?	Yes		No							
Is there any obvious danger on posts?	Yes		No							
Are the posts stable in the ground?	Yes		No							
Is the crossbar fixed securely?	Yes		No							
Is there evidence of rust on the posts?	Yes		No							
ANCILLARY										
Is the pitch floodlit?	Yes		No							
Is there changing accommodation for the pitch?	Yes		No							
Is an appropriate level of car parking available?	Yes		No							
Pitch maintenance (information gathered via club survey/ pitch provider consultation) - refer to the guidance notes below										
Aerated (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never			
Sand dressed (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never			
Fertilised (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never			
Weed killed (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never			
Chain harrowed	every week		fortnightly		monthly		never			
										Pitch Maintenance Score
Drainage	Natural (inadequate) **SCORE D0**		Natural (adequate) **SCORE D1**		Pipe drained **SCORE D2**		Pipe and slit drained **SCORE D3**	Unknown **SCORE D0**	**Natural (adequate)** = 3 or less training/match cancellations per season **Natural (inadequate)** = 4 or more training match cancellations per season *Based on a **pipe drained** system at 5m centres that has been installed in the previous eight years **Based on a **slit drained** system at 1m centres completed in the previous five years.	

Artificial grass pitches non-technical assessment (including third generation turf pitches)

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Artifical grass pitches

Site reference		**Site Name**					
6 figure grid reference		**Pitch ID**					
Number of AGPs on site		**Pitch size**	Full (i.e., 100m x 60m)		Half (i.e., 60m x 40m)		
Availability							

Community Use - used, Community Use - unused, No Community Use, Available but Unused

Type of pitch	**Long Pile 3G** (65mm with shock pad)		**Medium Pile 3G** (55-60mm)		**Short Pile 3G** (40mm)		
	Sand Dressed		**Sand Filled**		**Water based**		

Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)

Element	Rating								Guidance notes	Site comments
Age of Surface	less than 2 years		2-5 years		5-10 years		over 10 years			
Evidence of moss/lichen (all surfaces)	None		Yes - some				Yes - lots			
Loose gravel (macadam surface)	None		Yes - some				Yes - lots			
Holes or rips in surface (macadam, art. grass or polymeric surfaces)	None		Yes - some				Yes - lots			
Grip underfoot	Good		Adequate				Poor			
Line markings - quality	Good		Adequate				Poor			
Problem Areas: Evidence of Glass/ stones/ litter	None		Yes - some				Yes - lots			
Problem Areas: Evidence of inappropriate use	None		Yes - some				Yes - lots			
Problem Areas: Evidence of damage to surface	None		Yes - some				Yes - lots		If no evidence, assume none.	
Access for disabled players. i.e.: ramps onto courts, width of gates	Good		Adequate				Poor			
Condition of posts/ nets/ goals	Good		Adequate				Poor			
Surrounding fencing	Good		Adequate				Poor			
Adequate safety margins (where appropriate)	Yes - fully		No- but adequate				No - not adequate			
Is the AGP floodlit?	Yes				No					
Is the AGP left open at all times?	Yes				No					
Are there dug outs?	Yes				No					
Are there youth shelters/spectator seating around AGP?	Yes				No					
Is there changing accommodation for the AGP?	Yes				No					

Maximum score	**93**	**Scoring:**	Poor	<=50	Total Score **0**
			Standard	51-79	
			Good	80+	Potential Rating **Poor**

Tennis court non-technical assessment

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Tennis/ Netball/ Courts

KKPref											
Site name:											
Number of courts -		**Tennis**		**Netball**			**Basketball**		**Five-a-side**		
General Playground or											
specific sports court area?											
Court surface				**Management**					**Community Use?**		
		Artificial turf, Clay, Grass, Macadam, Polymeric, Shale					Club, LA - Parks, Parish Council, Public, School				

Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)

Element	Rating								Comments
About the courts									
Evidence of moss/lichen (all surfaces)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Loose gravel (macadam surface)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Holes or rips in surface (macadam, art. grass or polymeric surfaces)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Grip underfoot	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Line markings - quality	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Surrounding fencing	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Size of courts	Yes - fully		No- but adequate		No - not adequate				
Adequate safety margins	Yes - fully		No- but adequate		No - not adequate				
Slope of courts	Flat		Slight		Gentle		Moderate		Severe		
Problem Areas: Evidence of Glass/ stones/ litter	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Problem Areas: Evidence of inappropriate use	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Access for disabled players - ie: ramps onto courts, width of gates	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Changing Accomodation									
Changing Accomodation	Yes				No				
About the equipment									
Posts and net	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Are the courts locked when not in use?	Yes				No				
Practice wall	Yes				No				

Athletics Track non-technical assessment

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Athletics Tracks

KKPref					
Site name:					
Track surface		Grass, polymeric, cinder, other specify	**Specify If 'Other'**		
No. of Lanes		**Length of track:**		**Community Use:**	

Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each track with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)

Element	Rating						Comments
About the track facilities							
Damage to the track surface	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots		
Grip underfoot	Good		Adequate		Poor		
Line markings - quality	Good		Adequate		Poor		
Track edging	Good		Adequate		Poor		
Disabled access	Good		Adequate		Poor		
Problem Areas: Evidence of Glass/ stones/ litter	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots		
Floodlighting	Yes		No				
Is the track fenced?	Yes		No				
Surface of run ups - long/triple jump, high jump	Good		Adequate		Poor		
Adequate landing areas - jumps	Good		Adequate		Poor		
Adequate safety margins	Yes - fully		No-but adequate		No-not adequate		
Take off boards	Good		Adequate		Poor		
Landing mats	Yes		No				
Surface of throwing areas - shot, discuss, hammer	Good		Adequate		Poor		
Adequate safety margins - throws	Good		Adequate		Poor		
Throwing cages	Yes		No				
Access to toilets	Yes		No				
Changing accomodation	Yes		No				
Changing accomodation - quality	Good		Adequate		Poor		
Club room	Yes		No				
Car parking	Good		Adequate		Poor		

General Comments

ENTER Athletics

Please make sure there is no filter on in sheet At_db !

Rugby league non-technical assessment

Non Technical Quality Assessment - Rugby League

Please complete one form per pitch

Site reference		**Site Name**	
6 figure grid reference		**Pitch ID(s)**	
Number of rugby league pitches on site		**Pitch size**	(Senior, Junior, Primary)
Availability?		**Are any other pitches marked out over this pitch?**	
Community Use - used, Community Use - unused, No Community Use, Available but Unused			
Weather at time of visit			
Pitch Issues:			

Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)

Element	Rating						Guidance notes	Comments	Scores
Playing surface									
Grass Coverage	Good		Adequate		Poor		>90% Good <80% Poor		0
Size of pitch	Preferred size		Meets minimum Size		No - not adequate		See RFL Pitch Size Guidance: www.rflfacilitiestrust.co.uk		0
Slope of pitch (gradient and cross fall)	Good		Adequate		Poor				0
Length of grass	Good		Adequate		Poor		20mm - 60mm: www.rflfacilitiestrust.co.uk/		0
Evenness of pitch	Flat		Moderate		Severe				0
Problem Areas: Evidence of dog fouling	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				0
Problem Areas: Evidence of glass/litter/vehicle tracks	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				0
Typical weekly usage (match equivalent sessions)	6 or less		7 - 9		10 plus		Refer to club surveys & other information gathered		0
Does the maintenance schedule meet RFL requirements	Yes		In part		No		See RFL Annual Preparation and Maintenance of the Rugby League Pitch: www.rflfacilitiestrust.co.uk/		0
Pitch ancillary facilities								**Section total**	**0**
Are goalposts safe?	Yes				No				0
Is the site secure or open	Secure				Open				0
Is the pitch floodlit?	Yes				No				0
Is the pitch enclosed by perimeter fence?	Yes				No				0
Is there a training area separate to match pitch(es)?	Yes				No				0
Is there a covered stand?	Yes				No				0
Ancillary facilities								**Section total**	**0**
Is there a clubhouse on site?	Yes				No				0
Is there changing accommodation for the pitch?	Yes				No				0
Adequacy of changing accommodation (exterior)?	Good		Adequate		Poor				0
Adequacy of changing accommodation (interior)?	Good		Adequate		Poor				0
Is there an officials room?	Yes				No				0
Is there a dedicated medical room?	Yes				No				0
Are accessible facilities provided?	Yes				No				0
Is an appropriate level of car parking available?	Yes				No				0
								Section total	**0**
				Total score		**0**			
				Maximum score		**95**			
				Potential Rating		**Poor**			