

# Hull City Council

## Playing Pitch Strategy 2011-2021



Produced 2010

Final Revision 8 December 2010



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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **Scope of the report**

This strategy covers all organised outdoor sports including football, rugby league, rugby union, cricket, hockey, baseball, rounders, tennis, bowls and American football.

It details the extent of the quality and quantity of grass and synthetic playing surfaces accessible to the general public in Kingston upon Hull and their ability to meet the needs of the users.

Projections have been made of future demands based on anticipated population growth and expected increases in participation in individual sports.

The Playing Pitch Strategy will help inform the Council's decision making process for the management and proposed enhancement of its outdoor sports pitch provision including utilisation within the planning process where appropriate. This will enable informed decisions as to future provision both in quantity and quality of facilities.

The information contained in the Strategy was collected between June 2009 and May 2010. There are continual changes to the level of provision and to the teams active in the City. The information in the Strategy necessarily is based on the situation at the time of the particular survey.

Clubs and teams that use the facilities have been contacted and their views collated on facilities provided for their sports. The surveys covered all outdoor sports facilities accessibly to the general public, this included schools, colleges and privately owned facilities.

There have been discussions with representatives of those City Council Departments concerned with the provision, maintenance and use of playing fields, and with the National Governing Bodies, private clubs and other organisations that provide and use playing pitches and cricket squares.

## **Key Findings**

City wide there is recognition for upgrading of playing pitches including better drainage and changing, reception, toilets, office and storage to service community use.

There are clear maintenance issues particularly in respect of pitch provision within parks and playing fields with only bare minimum operations being carried out leading to poor quality pitches.

Quality of provision is an issue across the city particularly in respect of cricket with no provision in North East Hull.

There are football pitch deficiencies in Avenue, Myton and Newland wards

There is a significant shortfall of provision for mini football and rugby in order to encourage the sports from a younger age.

Intermediate rugby pitch needs have been identified in order for clubs to progress to higher levels.

Provision of tennis should be improved as there is poor publicly accessible tennis court provision across the city with the exception of Pelican Park in East Hull.

There is currently a shortage of synthetic turf pitches across the city, however the Building Schools for the Future Programme will greatly address this area.

It is clearly evident that there is no single access point for the public to book outdoor sports facilities within the city. Calls are taken through the 300300 number but the process to identify all available pitches is not clear and only a limited number of council owned facilities are on offer through this system. A more joined up approach particularly incorporating school facilities would be very beneficial in promoting the use of these pitches.

## **Recommendations**

PPS 1 - All Pitches should be capable of carrying a minimum of two games per week throughout the season, without excessive loss of grass cover. Maintenance should therefore be improved to include the minimum requirements from the Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI) as detailed in Appendices

PPS 2 – A single access point should be available for the public to book outdoor sports facilities within the city. A more joined up approach particularly incorporating school facilities would be very beneficial in promoting the use of these pitches.

PPS 3 - All sites where there is community use of pitches should be provided with appropriate changing accommodation with shower facilities.

PPS 4 - Provision should be increased for mini and junior football and rugby by the establishment of a network of smaller sized pitches in accordance with governing body recommendations.

PPS 5 - Mini and junior football and rugby for teams and clubs without their own grounds should be encouraged to develop 'home grounds' at schools sites rather than on public parks to maximise the use of existing facilities.

PPS 6 - A network of training facilities with surfaces suitable for football, rugby and cricket should be established throughout the City. These surfaces should ideally be floodlit and fenced and supported by appropriate changing facilities with showers.

PPS 7 – Due to predicted increase in demand for Rugby League and Football as outlined through the Playing Pitch Model, an increase in the number of pitches needs to be accommodated over the next 10 years.

PPS 8 – Improvement in the quality of cricket provision is required to promote and encourage the sport within the city

PPS 9 – Access to tennis courts should be improved allowing the public more ease of entry into the sport through working closely with the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA)

PPS 10 – The strategy and its findings should be used to help direct monies for the specific benefit of improved playing pitch provision. The strategy should also be used as the foundation from which to build proposals for development that will attract external funding.

## **1. Context of study**

### **1.1. Introduction**

This Playing Pitch Strategy has been prepared to determine the extent of the quality and quantity of grass playing pitches in the City of Kingston-upon-Hull (the study area) and their ability to meet the needs of the users. Projections have been made of future demands based on anticipated population levels and the expected increase in participation in the individual sports.

Based on the information collected proposals are included to address problems of provision and the costs of implementing the proposals.

The sports covered by the survey on which the Strategy is based are:

Association Football.  
Rugby League.  
Cricket.  
Hockey.  
Rugby Union.  
Rounders.  
Baseball and Softball.  
American Football.  
Tennis  
Lawn Bowls

The Strategy considers the three principal sources of provision:

Educational establishments in the maintained sector.  
Public parks, recreation and sports grounds.  
Private schools and clubs.

School playing fields play an essential part in the provision of sports facilities for community use, as well as serving the schools themselves. The level of provision at each School has therefore been examined, so that the extent of surplus capacity that might be available for community use can be determined.

Kingston-upon-Hull has a large number of sports teams active in the City and its immediate hinterland. The leagues are particularly strong in amateur football and rugby league. There are a large number of very enthusiastic and committed volunteers who organise coach and develop the clubs and their teams.

The Strategy has been prepared in the light of the Government's policies on sport and the implementation recommendations and requirements of a number of key policy documents, published by the DFES and DCMS, and developed and implemented by Sport England.



The information contained in the Strategy was collected between June 2009 and May 2010. There are continual changes to the level of provision and to the teams active in the City. The information in the Strategy necessarily is based on the situation at the time of the particular survey.

## **1.2. Population**

The latest mid-year population estimates produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) estimate that 262,400 persons were present in Hull on 30 June 2008. Of this figure, 50.6 per cent of the population were male and 49.4 per cent were female.

Hull has a population density of 3,673 persons per square kilometre giving it one of the highest population densities outside of London.

Population growth

The population of Hull has grown by 5.0 per cent (12,500 people) from 2001 to 2008, compared with national population growth of 4.8 per cent and regional population growth of 5.7 per cent.

The male population has grown by 7.3 per cent (9,000 people) and the female population has grown by 2.7 per cent (3,400 people) between 2001 and 2009. Unlike 2001 there are now more males than females.

The city's population is projected to reach 317,900 by 2033.

## **1.3. Scope of the report**

This strategy covers all organised outdoor sports including football, rugby league, rugby union, cricket, hockey, baseball, rounders, tennis, bowls and American football.

It details the extent of the quality and quantity of grass and synthetic playing surfaces in Kingston upon Hull and their ability to meet the needs of the users.

Projections have been made of future demands based on anticipated population growth and expected increases in participation in individual sports.

This will enable informed decisions as to future provision both in quantity and quality of facilities.

#### **1.4. Active People Survey**

The Active People Survey 3 (2009) was a survey of adults aged 16 and over living in England. The Survey gathered data on the type, duration and intensity of people's participation in different types of sport and active recreation, as well as information about volunteering, club membership (member of a club where they play sport), people receiving tuition from an instructor or coach, participation in competitive sport and satisfaction with local sports provision.

Hull was recorded as having a participation rate of 19.5%, which, is below the national average and places the city in the bottom 25% for participation (3 x 30 minutes sport and active recreation). Participation in Hull is significantly below the benchmark for the worst performing 25% of authorities. This suggests that there is considerable opportunity to improve.

The full results can be found at:-

[http://www.sportengland.org/research/active\\_people\\_survey/active\\_people\\_survey\\_3.aspx](http://www.sportengland.org/research/active_people_survey/active_people_survey_3.aspx)

#### **1.5. Planning Policy Guidance 17**

The protection of open spaces for recreation and sport is addressed in 'Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation'.

The Guidance states "To ensure effective planning for open space, sport and recreation it is essential that the needs of local communities are known. Local authorities should undertake robust assessments of the existing and future needs of their communities for open space, sports and recreational facilities" (National Planning Policies: Section 1).

The Guidance details the protection to be given to playing fields and the restrictions on allowable development of them.

The requirements set out in PPG 17 are fully developed in the document 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG17' issued by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. This Guide explains the methodology for undertaking local assessment of need, the need for local strategies and policies to "...deliver the full range of high quality, accessible open spaces and sport and recreation facilities in the right places to meet local needs" (para. 4.10). It also addresses the issue of developers' contributions to the provision and upkeep of facilities.

In Section 7, the Guidance includes information on forecasting future needs and the role Sport England can play in contributing to the supply of information and the development of policies.

## 1.6. Sport England

This Playing Pitch study is supported by Sport England and is based on its guidance document 'Towards a Level Playing Field: A Guide to the Production of Playing Pitch Strategies'.

The Guide sets out the need to improve and protect the provision for sports pitches. In subsequent sections it sets out the procedure to be followed to determine the following:

- the quantity and quality of existing provision,
- the level of current demand,
- the level of demand in comparison with population levels and geographical areas in order to assess the level of latent demand, and
- patterns of play to determine the level of temporal demand throughout the week.

It then details how a strategy can be developed to address qualitative and quantitative deficiencies and meet users' requirements both currently and for the future.

Playing pitches are important as recreational and amenity features and provide open space in both urban and rural landscapes. Their development for purposes other than recreation has serious repercussions, not only through the reduction of leisure facilities and the resulting increase in pressure on those remaining, but also in the visual impact created by loss of open space. The importance of pitches is demonstrated by Sport England's role as a statutory consultee on proposals for development that affect:-

- playing fields
- land used as playing fields at any time in the last five years, which remains undeveloped
- land that is identified for use as a playing field in a development plan.

## 1.7. Core Strategy

### Purpose of the Playing Pitch Strategy

The purpose of the Strategy is:

- To inform the review of the local plan.
- To provide adequate planning guidance to determine development proposals affecting playing fields.
- To secure the provision of playing pitches to meet identified and perceived demand for the City, recognising the role of the City in the provision of facilities for residents from beyond the City Council's boundaries.
- To identify the quality of existing pitches and support facilities.
- To identify pitches (particularly on school sites) which do not provide public use.
- To identify and account for the impact of sports development initiatives at the national and local levels on the level of demand for natural turf pitches.
- To determine the future demand for natural turf pitches.
- To determine the future demand for playing pitches in relation to new housing developments.
- To inform the development of the city including NASA, Holderness Road Corridor, North Hull Regeneration Plan and the Building Schools for the Future programme.

The city's Core Strategy is currently at the Emerging Preferred Approach stage leading to the adoption of a fully approved Core Strategy.

Link to Core Strategy:-

[http://www.hullcc.gov.uk/portal/page?\\_pageid=221.602029&\\_dad=portal&\\_schema=PORTAL](http://www.hullcc.gov.uk/portal/page?_pageid=221.602029&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL)

The PPS will help to endorse the suggested policy line in protecting playing fields from development (Policy CS8) and in seeking planning contributions (Policy CS12 (2)) in setting tariffs or what this might mean to potential developers in contributing via S106 funding, appreciating that exact details would be calculated on each site in question; The city council's Core Strategy identifies the importance of open space.

*Open space, sport, recreation and play facilities are important to the quality of places and to people's overall wellbeing. They provide relief from the built form, provide a venue for exercise, play and the exploration of nature, and are important for the adaptation to and mitigation of climate change. For these reasons, they make an essential contribution towards the overall economic prosperity of the city.*

The Core Strategy provides the spatial vision for the development of the city to the year 2026 and the policies that are needed to deliver that vision. In respect of outdoor sports provision it defines outdoor sports facilities as:-

*Natural or artificial surfaces used for sport and recreation. Either publicly or privately owned, as well as school playing fields.*

Sets a provision target of 1.68 hectares per 1000 people

Identifies access times to facilities as:-

- 20 minute walk to tennis, bowls and synthetic pitches
- 15 minute walk to grass pitches
- 20 minute drive to athletics tracks and golf courses

## **2. Methodology**

### **2.1. Towards a Level Playing Field**

#### Sport England Methodology

The methodology followed in the preparation of the Strategy included the guidelines detailed in Sport England's 'Towards a Level Playing Field'. The procedure covered the following.

#### Site Inspections and Surveys (including discussions with key personnel)

##### Local authority sites:

- Schools.
- Parks.
- Recreation grounds.
- Playing fields (within the City and immediately outside).
- Other green sites designated in the Local Plan.
- Future City parks' sites.

##### Private sites:

- Private schools.
- Hull University.
- Private sports clubs.
- Commercial companies' sports clubs.
- Commercially operated sports clubs.

#### Discussions with Governing Bodies and Organisers of Target Sports

#### Questionnaires Sent to Clubs and Teams in Major Sports

Consultation with all stakeholders followed the production of the draft and contributed to the formation of the recommendations in this strategy.

### **2.2. Sports England Playing Pitch Model**

Sport England provided its Playing Pitch Model and the information collected was applied to determine the surpluses and deficits in provision. The completed model is included in Appendix C.

Team Generation Rates (TGRs) were calculated for each age group and in each sport for both sexes. Comparisons were made with figures supplied by Sports England for areas elsewhere in the Country. This data was used to assess latent demand for each sport in the City.

### 3. Surveys and Analysis

#### 3.1. Open Space Audit

All 'green sites' throughout the City were visited and site surveys carried out between March 2008 to June 2008 including an assessment of all outdoor sports facilities. The full report can be found at [www.hullcc.gov.uk](http://www.hullcc.gov.uk)

Key points from the audit identified the range of sports provision within the city as shown in the table below.

	Committee Area							Totals
	East	North Carr	Northern	Park	Riverside	West	Wyke	
<b>Bowling greens</b>	4	0	2	4	4	6	4	<b>24</b>
<b>Tennis Courts (Grass)</b>	0	0	0	0	0	6	4	<b>10</b>
<b>Tennis Courts (Hard)</b>	3	0	7	6	0	0	0	<b>16</b>
<b>Cricket</b>	5	2	7	2	0	4	2	<b>22</b>
<b>Athletics</b>	7	7	8	6	6	8	3	<b>45</b>
<b>Rounders</b>	7	8	3	7	4	6	4	<b>39</b>
<b>Baseball</b>	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	<b>4</b>
<b>Mini Football</b>	5	4	8	4	10	6	1	<b>38</b>
<b>Junior Football</b>	8	5	3	3	4	4	3	<b>30</b>
<b>Senior Football</b>	18	19	37	18	1	28	6	<b>127</b>
<b>Senior Rugby League</b>	6	2	7	12	1	3	7	<b>38</b>
<b>Junior Rugby League</b>	4	3	0	0	1	0	0	<b>8</b>
<b>Senior Rugby Union</b>	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	<b>2</b>

**Table 1 - Publicly accessible sports provision by Committee Area**

It can be seen that the majority of sports facilities in Hull are fairly evenly distributed across six of the seven committee areas, however the North Carr Area Committee and Riverside Area Committee contain significantly fewer types of outdoor sports facilities than other areas of the city,. These statistics refer to the quantity and not the quality of provision which varies significantly.

### 3.2. Playing Pitch Model

The Sport England Playing Pitch Model (PPM) has been used and completed to indicate the extent of provision for each of the main sports. The results are shown in full in Appendix C

This Model determines the current level of provision and predicts future requirements for football, rugby league, rugby union, cricket and hockey. Results are based on the following data:

- Current population in each Ward.
- The population in each age group for minis (for football only), juniors and seniors.
- The number of teams playing in each Ward in each age group.
- The number of pitches and cricket squares in each Ward, with pitches split into mini, junior and senior according to size.
- The projected population variations in each Ward over a future period.
- The projected increase or decrease in participation in each sport.
- The proportion of senior to junior players in each sport.
- The temporal distribution of matches in each sport throughout the week.

By relating the numbers of teams in each sport to the population, the Model indicates whether there is latent demand for facilities in the City that is not being met or developed.

The best prediction for population changes are those used in the Core Strategy, is for limited growth. This would mean the population increasing by approx 5000 between now and 2026. That could mean an increase of approx 3000 for the next 10 years. It is expected that there will be variations in individual Wards, but until the policy on demolition of older residential properties and development of new ones is finalised, no realistic prediction can be made.

The Playing Pitch Model was populated with details of the current population, user groups and pitch availability to identify the current and future demand for pitch provision within the city.

The Model was also used to derive Team Generation Rates (TGRs) for the principle sports. These show the number of teams for each age group per 1000 population in the active age group (6-55 years of age).

The figures indicate good or excellent participation in football and, in particular, rugby league but, in common with other areas of the country, poor participation by girls and women.

The model also indicates a poor take up in cricket despite a good provision in the number of pitches. Further consultation with the governing bodies



revealed that quality of cricket squares was a significant issue along with the addition of adequate changing facilities at the various locations.

### **3.3. Quantity of Provision**

Through using the results of the Open Space Audit as a starting point a full analysis of sports pitch provision was carried out resulting in identifying all locations of pitches and the degree of accessibility to the public. The full table of sites is include in Appendix A.

The table confirms the findings of the surveys carried out during the Open Space Audit and the comments of the users, that there are, generally, adequate numbers of pitches available to meet current demands.

Community use of school facilities is not fully utilized and there is scope to develop this further.

The adequate quantity of pitches is also reflected in the Playing Pitch Model Current View shown overleaf in figure 1, which only highlights a deficiency in Rugby League provision on a Sunday morning.

There is however a shortage of adequate training spaces for football and rugby, with very few floodlit sites for winter training. There are no outdoor cricket practice facilities available other than those at private clubs and private schools.

Synthetic grass hockey pitches are available to meet the requirements of the hockey clubs from the city and a large area outside its boundaries. Current rugby union demand is adequately met by provision at private clubs. Baseball, rounders and American football facilities are currently adequate to meet the demand.

Playing Pitch Methodology Current Year																				
	Stage 1		Stage 2		Stage 3		Stage 6		Stage 7 (S6- S5)											
	Nr of teams		Ratio		(S1 x S2)		Audit		Shortfall or surplus											
<b>Football</b>	Adult teams (senior)	Junior teams (junior)	Games per week (senior)	Games per week (junior)	Games per week (senior)	Games per week (junior)	Nr of pitches (senior)	Nr of pitches (junior)	Saturday AM (senior)	Saturday PM (senior)	Saturday AM (junior)	Saturday PM (junior)	Sunday AM (senior)	Sunday PM (senior)	Sunday AM (junior)	Sunday PM (junior)	Mid Week 1 Tuesday (senior)	Mid Week 1 Tuesday (junior)	Mid Week 2 Thursday (senior)	Mid Week 2 Thursday (junior)
<b>Total</b>	141	80	0.7	0.5	98.7	40	127	30	107.3	127.0	30.0	30.0	57.9	127.0	14.0	14.0	117.1	22.0	127.0	30.0
NB No need to use team equivalents if mini soccer has its own dedicated pitches																				
<b>Mini soccer</b>	Teams	Team equivalents	Games per week	Games per week	Equivalent games per week	Nr of mini pitches	Nr of pitches (adult equiv)	Saturday AM	Saturday PM	Sunday AM	Sunday PM	Mid Week 1	Mid Week 2							
<b>Total</b>	40	10.2	0.5	20	5.08	38	38	38.0	38.0	18.0	38.0	38.0	38.0							
<b>Cricket</b>	Adult teams (senior)	Junior teams (junior)	Games per week (senior)	Games per week (junior)	Games per week (senior)	Games per week (junior)	Nr of pitches	Nr of pitches (junior)	Saturday AM (senior)	Saturday PM (senior)	Saturday AM (junior)	Saturday PM (junior)	Sunday AM (senior)	Sunday PM (senior)	Sunday AM (junior)	Sunday PM (junior)	Mid Week 1 Tuesday (senior)	Mid Week 1 Tuesday (junior)	Mid Week 2 Thursday (senior)	Mid Week 2 Thursday (junior)
<b>Total</b>	19	22	0.5	0.5	9.5	11	22		22.0	18.2	18.2	22.0	17.3	22.0	18.2	22.0	21.1	18.7	22.0	22.0
<b>Rugby League</b>	Adult teams (senior)	Junior teams (junior)	Games per week (senior)	Games per week (junior)	Games per week (senior)	Games per week (junior)	Nr of pitches (senior)	Nr of pitches (junior)	Saturday AM (senior)	Saturday PM (senior)	Saturday AM (junior)	Saturday PM (junior)	Sunday AM (senior)	Sunday PM (senior)	Sunday AM (junior)	Sunday PM (junior)	Mid Week 1 Tuesday (senior)	Mid Week 1 Tuesday (junior)	Mid Week 2 Thursday (senior)	Mid Week 2 Thursday (junior)
<b>Total</b>	17	87	0.5	0.5	8.5	43.5	38	8	38.0	38.0	8.0	8.0	31.2	38.0	-31.2	8.0	37.2	3.7	37.2	8.0
<b>Rugby Union</b>	Adult teams (senior)	Junior teams (junior)	Games per week (senior)	Games per week (junior)	Games per week (senior)	Games per week (junior)	Nr of pitches (senior)	Nr of pitches (junior)	Saturday AM (senior)	Saturday PM (senior)	Saturday AM (junior)	Saturday PM (junior)	Sunday AM (senior)	Sunday PM (senior)	Sunday AM (junior)	Sunday PM (junior)	Mid Week 1 Tuesday (senior)	Mid Week 1 Tuesday (junior)	Mid Week 2 Thursday (senior)	Mid Week 2 Thursday (junior)
<b>Total</b>	7	8	0.5	0.5	3.5	4	2	2	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	-1.2	2.0	-1.6	1.7	1.6	2.0	2.0
<b>Hockey</b>	Adult teams (senior)	Junior teams (junior)	Games per week (senior)	Games per week (junior)	Games per week (senior)	Games per week (junior)	Nr of pitches		Saturday AM (senior)	Saturday PM (senior)	Saturday AM (junior)	Saturday PM (junior)	Sunday AM (senior)	Sunday PM (senior)	Sunday AM (junior)	Sunday PM (junior)	Mid Week 1 Tuesday (senior)	Mid Week 1 Tuesday (junior)	Mid Week 2 Thursday (senior)	Mid Week 2 Thursday (junior)
<b>Total</b>	11	7	0.5	0.5	5.5	3.5	0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-5.5	0.0	-3.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Figure 1 – Current provision using the Playing Pitch Model

Playing Pitch Methodology - Future																								
Year	Predicted teams			Stage 1		Stage 2		Stage 3		Stage 6		Stage 7 (S6- S5)												
	Nr of teams calculated from TGR	Growth factor	New number of teams	Nr of teams	Ratio	(S1 x S2)	Audit	Shortfall or surplus																
			Adult teams (senior)	Junior teams (junior)	Games per week (senior)	Games per week (junior)	Games per week (senior)	Games per week (junior)	Nr of pitches (senior)	Nr of pitches (junior)	Saturday AM (senior)	Saturday PM (senior)	Saturday AM (junior)	Saturday PM (junior)	Sunday AM (senior)	Sunday PM (senior)	Sunday AM (junior)	Sunday PM (junior)	Mid Week 1 Tuesday (senior)	Mid Week 1 Tuesday (junior)	Mid Week 2 Thursday (senior)	Mid Week 2 Thursday (junior)		
<b>Football Future Year</b>	296.1	1%	299.1	89.7	209.3	0.7	0.5	62.8	104.7	127	30	114.4	127.0	30.0	30.0	83.0	127.0	-11.9	-11.9	120.7	9.1	127.0	30.0	
<b>Mini Soccer Future Year</b>	46.2	4%	48.0	12.2	0.5	0.5	24.0	6.1	38	38	38.0	38.0	14.0	38.0	38.0	38.0	38.0							
<b>Cricket Future Year</b>	89.3	2%	91.0372	36.4	54.6	0.5	0.5	18.2	27.3	22		22.0	14.7	12.4	22.0	12.9	22.0	12.4	22.0	20.2	13.8	22.0	22.0	
Assume: 40% adult, 60% juniors																								
<b>Playing Pitch Methodology Future Year - Rugby Union</b>																								
<b>Rugby Union Future Year</b>	37.8	2%	38.6	19.3	19.3	0.5	0.5	9.639	9.6392	2	2	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	-6.7	-6.7	1.0	1.0	2.0	2.0	
<b>Rugby League Future Year</b>	71.4	2%	73.0	36.5	36.5	0.5	0.5	18.25	18.252	38	8	38.0	38.0	8.0	8.0	23.4	38.0	-8.4	-8.4	8.0	36.2	6.2	36.2	8.0
<b>Hockey Future Year</b>	18.9	2%	19.3	9.6	9.6	0.5	0.5	4.82	4.8196	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-4.8	-4.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	

Figure 2 – Future demand for pitches using the Playing Pitch Model

### 3.4. Quality of Provision

The topography of the City is by and large flat with no dramatic changes in level or unacceptable slopes to pitches. The soils in the area are medium to heavy textured top soils overlying heavy, clay-based sub soils. Natural drainage is slow and water logging of winter games pitches is a widespread problem.

Many junior and mini football and rugby teams play on surfaces that are poorly drained and uneven. Contamination of surfaces is a serious issue, raising questions of health and safety, particularly for younger players.

The facilities in the Kingston Communications Stadium and the hockey pitches adjacent have been provided to a very high standard. However, there is a severe shortage of good quality winter games pitches for teams that play, or aspire to play, in the higher amateur leagues in football and rugby league. Other than the stadium pitches, there are no full size floodlit football pitches in the City.

Cricket squares on City Council sites are very basic with a thin layer of cricket clay loam overlying virgin topsoil. These squares are generally poor for use by the local leagues while the better quality facilities are available at private grounds. More high quality cricket squares are needed and demand is not being met within the City. The private grounds immediately outside the City limits have cricket grounds that supplement the City's provision, but increasing latent demand for high quality squares outstrips supply.

The provision of changing facilities throughout the City is a serious problem. There are some sites where changing rooms with showers are provided, but some public playing fields, and some schools with community use of winter games pitches, have no changing facilities available at all.

The City Council has a number of policies to develop increased participation in sports and sports development staff work with a variety of children's, youth and disadvantaged groups throughout the City.

The key strategy is Pride, Passion and Participation a sport and active recreation strategy for Hull 2008-2013 which identifies that:-

The development of quality spaces and places to play sport and be physically active is essential to increasing participation and the creation of healthier lifestyles and safer, more attractive neighbourhoods. We must create places and spaces in Hull which encourage activity. This includes public sports facilities, leisure centres and voluntary sports clubs but also includes other types of provision such as community centres, parks, playing fields, multi-use games areas and informal open space. Research has shown that "neighbourhood issues" relating to access, quality and safety are key determinants of physical activity levels in communities.

In addition there are proposals for works to provide improved sports facilities within regeneration areas covered by the Newington and Saint Andrews Wards to the west of the city and the Holderness Corridor in the east of the city as well as the comprehensive Building Schools for the Future Programme, see Section 7.

### **3.5. Accessibility**

The following series of maps clearly shows the distribution and accessibility of the facilities.

The key issues arising from the accessibility mapping regarding the provision of outdoor sports facilities in Hull sites include:

- the distribution of outdoor sports facilities across the city is comprehensive
- nearly all residents in Hull have access to a grass pitch within the recommended 15 minute walk time. Only small pockets of deficiency exist in the Wyke, Riverside and East committee areas
- there are some residents outside of a walk time catchment for tennis facilities, bowling greens and synthetic pitches, in particular in North Carr. All residents are within a 20 minute drive time of one of these sites, although it is important to note that Hull has one of the lowest car ownership per residence in the region.
- all residents in the city have access to synthetic turf pitches within a 20 minute drive time but there are a number of areas of the city without access to a synthetic pitch within a 20 minute walk time. In addition, the quality of those synthetic pitches is not good with Rosmead and Costello pitches being decommissioned recently.

#### **Booking Facilities**

It is clearly evident that there is no single access point for the public to book outdoor sports facilities within the city. Calls are taken through the 300300 number but the process to identify all available pitches is not clear and only a limited number of council owned facilities are on offer through this system. A more joined up approach particularly incorporating school facilities would be very beneficial in promoting the use of these pitches.

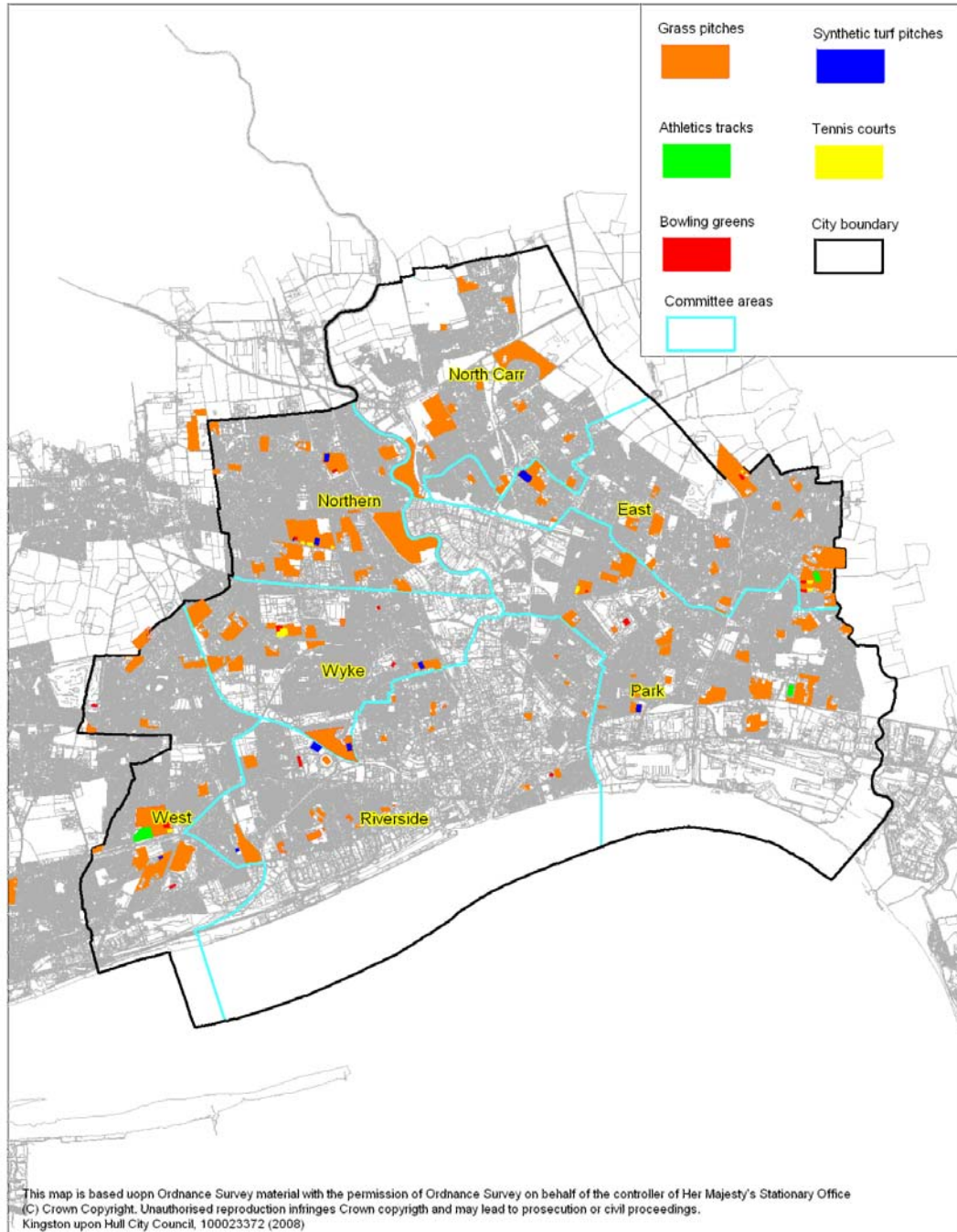


Figure 3 - Distribution of outdoor sports facilities in Hull

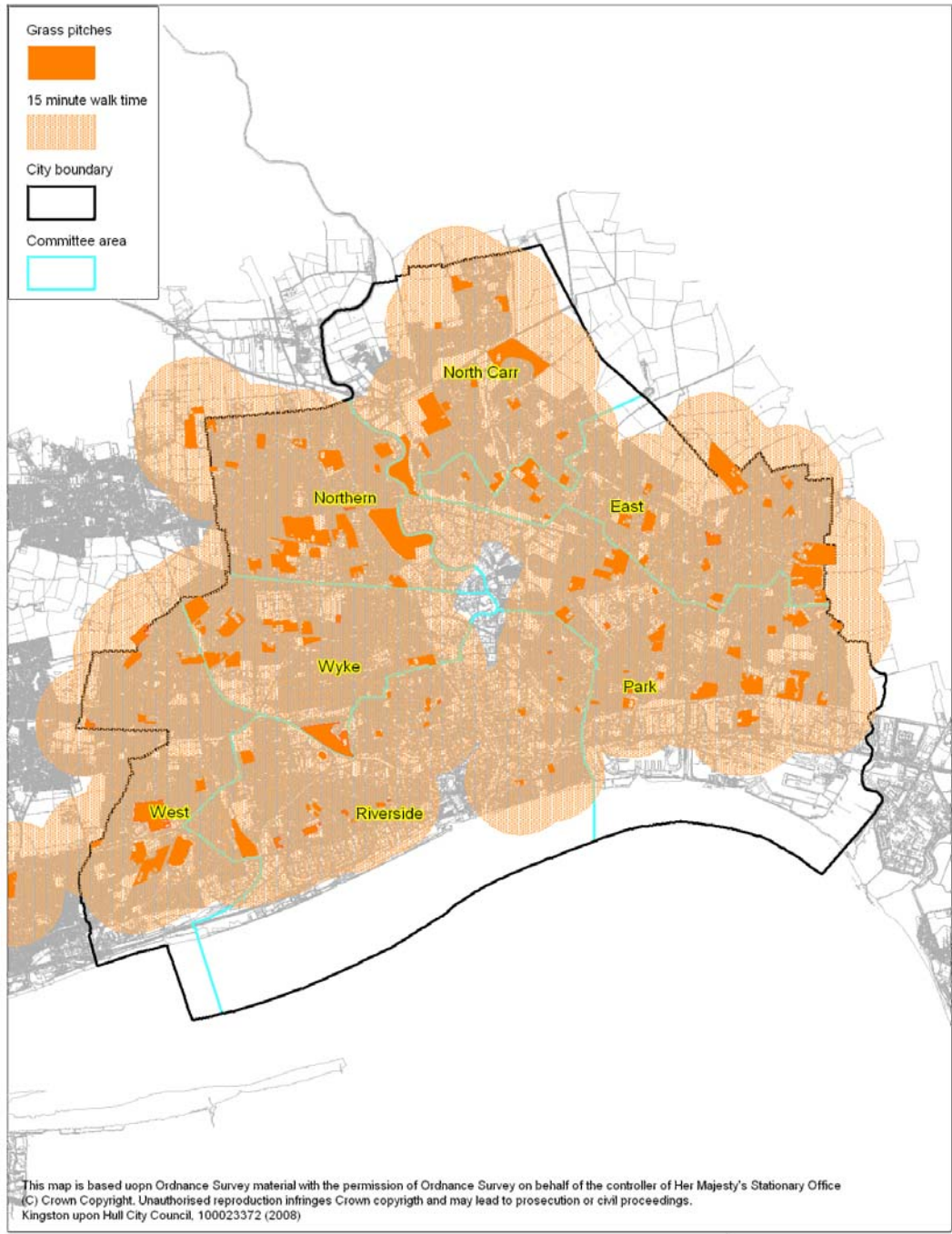


Figure 4 - Accessibility to grass pitches.



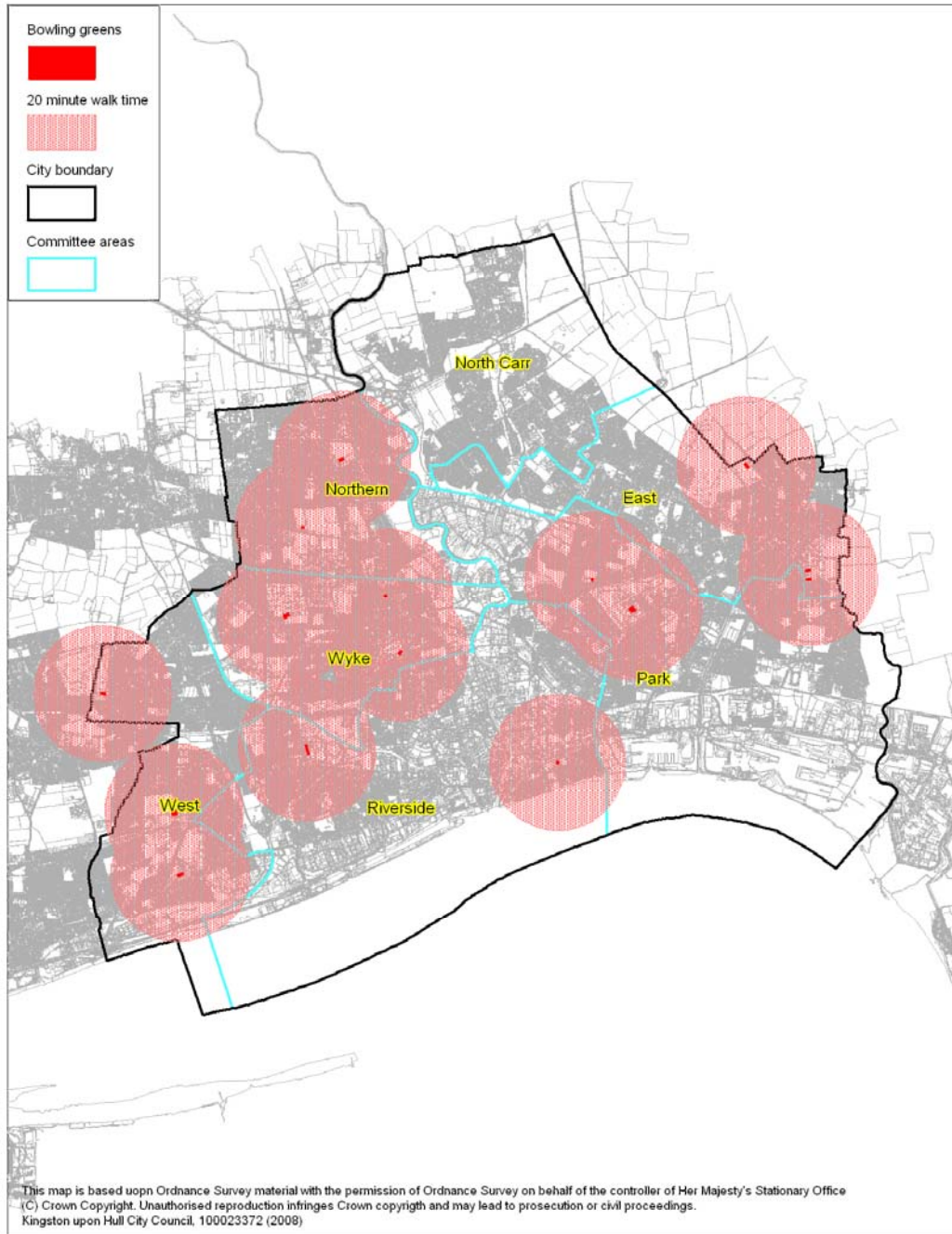


Figure 5 - Accessibility to bowling greens

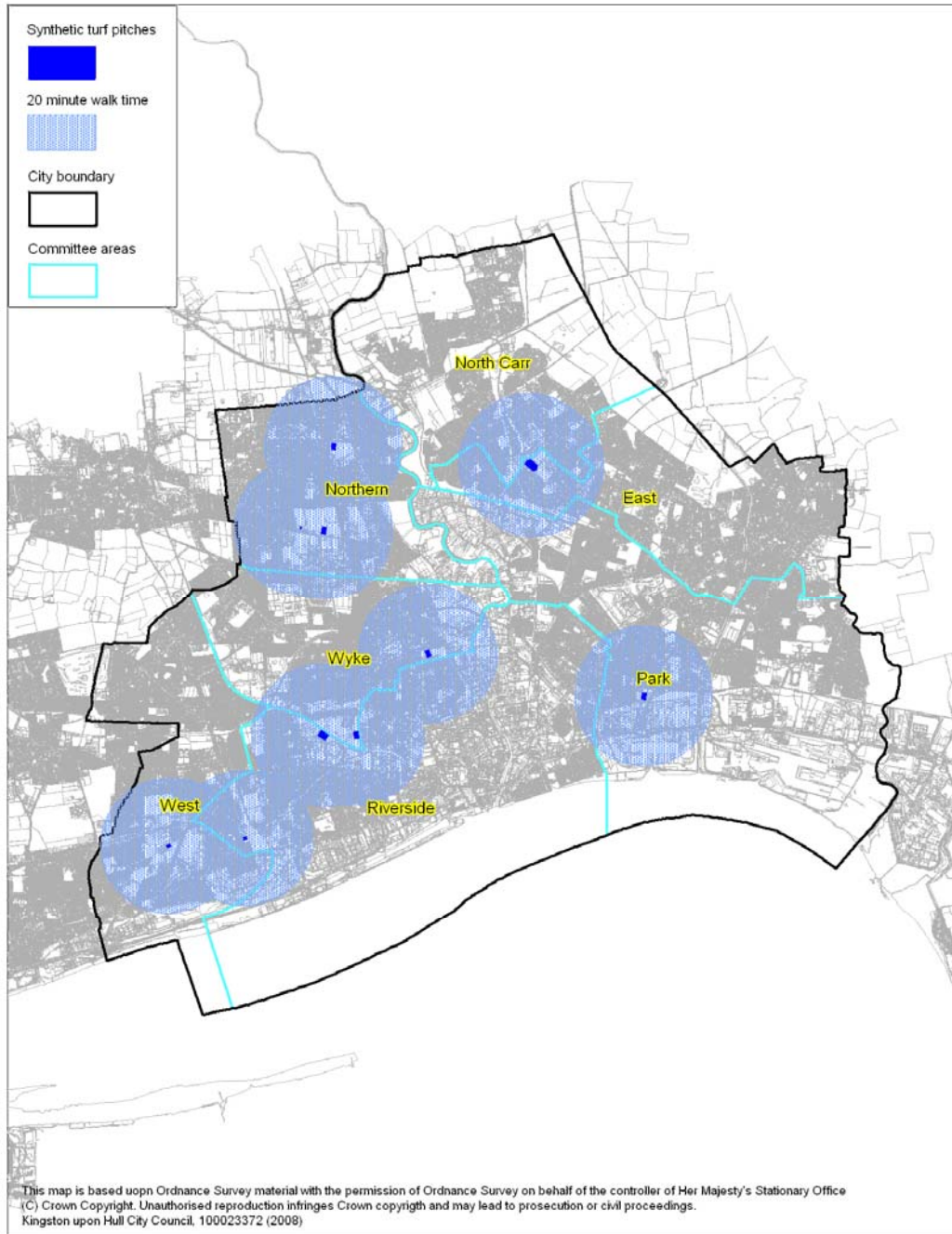


Figure 6 - Accessibility to synthetic pitches

#### 4. Maintenance

A large proportion of the City's land area is flat and low lying. Soils are predominantly clay-based with a high silt content in many areas and some sand in more limited areas. On the areas lying at higher levels, the soils still tended to follow the pattern of the lower areas and contained a high proportion of clay.

The current maintenance standards for city council maintained sites are detailed in Appendix D.



**Figure 7 - Goal Mouth and post condition for the start of the season**

A pitch assessment by the STRI was carried out on council owned football and rugby pitches in March 2010 and the following key areas were identified as crucial with regard to the maintenance of winter pitches:-

- Mowing Height & Frequency
- Mowing Pattern

- Weed Control
- Spring Renovation Programme
- Levelling Localised Low Spots
- Spikers And Slit Tinners
- Fertiliser Requirements



**Figure 8 - Sunken drainage channel**

The full report can be found in Appendix E.

A further report was produced with regard to summer sports facilities during the playing season 2010, see Appendix F. This report highlights the fact that several facilities particularly bowling greens are no longer being maintained to a playable standard and that the maintenance performed on the remaining summer sports facilities was to a bare minimum standard with few facilities passing the basic quality tests..

## **5. Provision by Sport**

Using Sport England's pitch and changing facilities assessment models sites were assessed across the city and are shown in Appendix B.

The majority of the scores fell between the 55% - 64% range realising an average quality pitch though some sites including Bude Road and Ennerdale scored below average.

The quality of the pitches is directly related to the quality of the maintenance programme and its delivery.

Pitches within schools tended to score higher than those within parks and playing fields, whilst the privately owned sites scored highest on quality.

### **5.1. Football Pitches**

#### Quantity and Distribution of Pitches

Clearly, football is a hugely popular sport in Hull with a large number of teams at both senior and junior levels. The City Council provides many of the pitches for community football at its parks sites.

Distribution throughout the City is widespread except in the area covered by the Avenue, Myton and Newland Wards. This is an area with few available green spaces large enough to accommodate new pitches. Other Wards showing low numbers of teams playing in them have facilities close by in adjacent Wards.

Reports from the leagues, clubs and teams indicate that there are sufficient pitches made available by the City Council to accommodate most of their requirements. There are some inconveniences in locations of pitches for some users, particularly those who require a pitch on a casual or occasional basis. Inevitably, some comments received have suggested that pitches are not always available where they are wanted. This is a particular issue in the north of the city for chartered standard clubs who have multiple teams and would like to be solely based in their area.

This can also be a problem towards the end of the season if there are a large number of postponed matches to play, particularly for teams using pitches that lie on cricket outfield.

The principal deficit is in the lack of pitches specifically for junior and mini players. Provision at parks sites is limited to two pitches at Pelican Park and a pitch each at Costello Park and Courtland Road Playing Field. While there are some at school sites, the sizes of pitches available appears to be random and relate more to the space available on school playing fields than the specific needs of junior and mini players.

## Quality of Pitches

While the extent of provision for senior football, and for junior football where the teams will play on all or part of full size pitches, is adequate, the quality is not. Widespread comments and complaints have been received throughout the study about the poor condition and inadequate maintenance of the grass winter games pitches in general, and the football pitches in particular.

As mentioned previously in this Strategy, the inherent nature of the soils in the area results in drainage problems, leading to severe management concerns for maintenance staff. The soft and often waterlogged surfaces of the pitches churn up easily, destroying the grass cover and leading to an accelerated rate of degradation of the playing conditions. Once this happens during the winter months when the grass is largely dormant, there is little the grounds staff can do.

One consequence of damage to pitch surfaces by adult players is that it leaves them in an unsuitable condition for use by children. Clearly, the level of mud, water logging and unevenness that a child can manage is less than an adult player.

Pitches across the City are generally level but wear in goal mouths is a particularly severe problem, again due to the drainage problems caused by the heavy soil. Many goal areas appear to be left unattended by the grounds staff for too long when they start to wear, resulting in the problem being exacerbated. Where goalmouths have been attended to the material used is often unsuitable.

Contamination and vandalism of park pitches is also a major concern on many sites. Teams seem reconciled to scouring the playing surfaces prior to games to collect, rubbish, debris and, in the worst cases, used needles, from the playing surfaces before they play on them. This is a major health and safety issue that needs to be addressed.

## Changing Rooms

The provision of changing rooms at sites is an even bigger problem for the players than the quality of the pitches. Some sites have no facilities and some have facilities that are inadequate in extent and quality.

At Costello Park there is understandable resistance to winter games teams changing in the stadium complex because of the resulting contamination from muddy footwear and kit. The number of changing rooms on the Park is inadequate and friction can result between teams, particularly if they are from different sports.

The provision of adequate space for all teams to change and shower should be provided at each site. As teams progress up through leagues they require

more extensive facilities and this problem must be addressed if Hull's teams are not to be pegged back at the lower end of the sport.

It is recommended that the shortage of training facilities is addressed by more extensive use of MUGAs with suitable fencing and floodlighting. The emphasis should be on the provision of long pile synthetic grass surfaces filled with sand/rubber mixes (often referred to as 'third generation' synthetic grass). These surfaces are being approved for matches at international level and are ideal for developing football skills. Such surfaces can also be designed for rugby training. This needs addressing in line with Sport England recommendation with regard to the use and development of synthetic pitch areas.

#### Future Demand

The over all indication CFA targets and data suggest that participation will stay the same with decrease no greater than 4% been the norm across all areas and age groups. There are outstanding data collation issues . The prediction for increase in participation will be re assessed with in the new development targets 2010 to 2013 approx 4% increase .

As for the adult game the increase target for male 11 a side is a small increase of 1% and 11% increase for female teams this includes small sided. The new trends will be in a u21 league and also a university/college football league , both targeted for mid week competition.

The low car ownership levels and cost of travel for larger family's could become problematic if clubs can not be relocated with in a locality with easy access. This offers the authority the opportunity to consider the options for target sites.

## 5.2. Rugby League Pitches

### Quantity and Distribution of Pitches

It is notable that there are a large number of teams that play at sites outside the City boundaries that have players who are City residents.

Clubs with teams playing at Bilton, Cottingham, Dane Park and at the BP Ground at Saltend, all have significant numbers of players from the City. It is also notable that these Clubs are some of the most successful in the area, emphasising the lack of higher level amateur facilities within the City.

The principal areas for increased usage of facilities are Eastmount, Kneeshaw and Orchard Park.



**Figure 9 - Rugby at East Park**

The north west area of the City is served partially by the rugby union pitches at Hull Rugby Union Club and the Marists Club. However, there is space for further facilities at Oak Road Playing Field if required.

The Central West area is more of a problem and, with minimal provision to the north, players need to travel into the south west corner of the City to find suitable facilities.

It should be noted that the only grass pitch in the City with floodlights, other than the three stadia, is the rugby league pitch at Pickering High School. This facility is not used for club matches but is in heavy demand for training and tends to be over used.

Teams up to and including under 12s play during the summer, relieving pressure on playing surfaces. Given that there are only a few smaller sized junior pitches, most of the mini rugby is played on parts of senior pitches, often across their width.



## Quality of Pitches

The condition of the pitches varies dramatically across the city.

The results from the questionnaires sent to the clubs indicates a general level of satisfaction with the standard of the playing surfaces at most City Council sites. Also included as Appendix G are the notes from a workshop carried out in July 2010 which highlights the key priorities recognised by the rugby league service area.

The problems of poor pitch conditions for juniors is eased by the younger age groups playing in summer. The under 12s and younger play in the summer months and this avoids the problem of young children playing on surfaces that have been heavily worn by adults.

The pitch at the Kingston Communications Stadium is a 'Desso Grassmaster' pitch constructed with a manufactured rootzone and synthetic grass re-inforcement. This is a state of the art pitch which is designed and managed to provide a first class surface for rugby and football.

One major issue in the City is the lack of provision between professional level pitches and amateur level pitches. Clubs that aspire to a higher level of competition do not have access to facilities acceptable to the higher amateur leagues.

As detailed earlier, a number of the more successful clubs, with most of their players resident in the City, have moved to grounds in the surrounding area. There is a need for intermediate facilities within the City for the more progressive amateur clubs. These should meet the requirements of the higher amateur leagues and include training areas, to relieve match pitches of the increased wear from intensive training.

## Quality of Changing Facilities

The questionnaire responses for changing rooms indicated a wide range of quality of provision. Of the City Council facilities, only Massey Beecroft and Sydney Smith School score top marks.

Rugby League is highly organised in the City and there are a large number of junior clubs. However, there are concerns with player transition from junior to senior level with a significant drop out rate noticeable in mid to late teens. As with football, the larger clubs would benefit from developing partnerships to aid the improvements of grounds and facilities. The larger clubs would have the opportunity to progress through the higher leagues and develop the required level of facilities as needed.

## Future Demand

The competition frame work has the following targets that if met will without doubt increase the demand for pitch use . Increase the number of 5-19 community teams from 1,118 to 1478.The 16+ community teams from 2,308 to 3,708.At 16+ increase registered players from 57,722 to 92,722 .

The option of moving rugby league to summer will reduce the demand for teams to hire atp/mugas with floodlit areas to train. This will release facilities for other winter sports. It will however have a knock on effect on summer sports particularly cricket where facilities may clash. Eg use of outfield by summer pitches.

The Primary Schools programme has been develop the number of opportunities to participate in Rugby League throughout Primary School Education. The target been to increase participation by 20%.

### 5.3. Cricket Grounds

#### Quantity and Distribution of Grounds

Cricket squares are available at seven public parks in the City. There are no cricket squares at schools.

All other cricket in the City is played at private club grounds.

The parks that have cricket squares are:

- Alderman Kneeshaw Recreation Ground.
- Bricknell Playing Field.
- Costello Park.
- Longhill Playing Field.
- Oak Road.
- Pelican Park.
- Princess Elizabeth Playing Field.

The sites are well distributed around the City with only the north east not being served by a cricket ground.

Many cricket teams with Hull players use sites immediately outside the City, generally at private clubs.

Demand for basic quality squares has declined in recent years and the facilities at are unlikely to be fully utilised in the immediate future. The Oak Road squares also suffered severely in the floods of June 2007 and still require substantial renovation.

However, there is a shortage of good quality facilities and the cricket fields at private clubs are in great demand. Hull Zingari have more teams than they can accommodate on their own ground and use the facilities at Hull University and North Cave.

Hull YPI are also looking for new facilities in order to expand the amount of teams playing, this is also the same for Sutton CC and Fenner CC.

We are at a critical stage for cricket across the City. The clubs are expanding and we are losing more facilities which doesn't help.

#### Quality of Grounds

Council cricket squares are heavily criticised by many cricketers. The facility at Pelican Park is generally considered to be poor, and the outfield at the ground is too small and the recent demolition of the pavilion has left the site with temporary changing facilities.

Most teams will avoid playing on Council pitches if a private ground can be used instead and many players feel that the parks' pitches are not suitable for children because of unreliable bounce.

Private grounds generally receive good ratings with the Humberside Police Ground. Sutton CC, Hull Zingari, Fenner & Hull YPI club facilities all have excellent ratings.

The main issue and major concerns with all local cricketers, England & Wales Cricket Board & the Yorkshire Cricket Board is the demise of many local grounds and more concerning is the loss of many quality facilities we recently had, such as:

- Northern Foods at Cottingham
- The Circle, Anlaby road
- BP Ground @ Saltend
- BR North Ground, Chanterlands avenue
- Telephones ground, Bricknell Park
- Ideal Standard, County Road
- Reckitts Ground, Chamberlin road

Constructing and maintaining good quality squares in parks, particularly when they are exposed to public use and abuse, creates problems for maintenance staff that have no real solution. Those squares evident in the City's public parks and open spaces appear to be areas where the grass has been cut very short and the square top-dressed with clay loam over the years to produce a playable surface. However, grass species on these surfaces are very mixed with many unsuitable strains.

The cost of fully constructed squares is high as is the maintenance of them. If they cannot be protected from vandalism, casual use for a variety of purposes or casual foot traffic, the high costs of regular maintenance will be wasted.

Quality cricket facilities should be focused on key locations such as specialist academies. The linking of secondary schools to cricket clubs should also be encouraged so that the pupils who are keen to develop their game can gain ready access to the clubs in the City.

#### Provision of Pavilions

Many clubs using park squares complained of the lack of buildings for shelter and/or hospitality. At Costello Park in particular, teams complained of having to shelter in cars if there is a shower of rain.

#### Future Demand

The four main clubs are monitored via their development plans. The clubs are at saturation point at their present venues. The Longhill site has the potential for increased use but there could be an issue in relation to changing provision. The Humber Cricket Partnership meets in Hull and the Yorkshire Cricket Facilities Strategy (2008-2013) is in place under the banner "One County - One Programme." The ECB has a County Pitch Advisory Scheme funded by Sport England and the ECB. It represents the governing body to address the issue of groundsmanship in particular at recreational level and to monitor the development of facilities on which recommendations are being implemented .

#### **5.4. Tennis**

##### Quantity

Sites with tennis courts are evenly distributed between three of the seven committee areas, with three sites located in the East and Northern committee areas and two sites in the West committee area. Only one site is located in the Park and Wyke committee areas and there are no sites in the North Carr and Riverside committee areas. The David Lloyd Centre is however located in North Carr. Although is a membership only centre, it does provide 7 outdoor tennis courts.

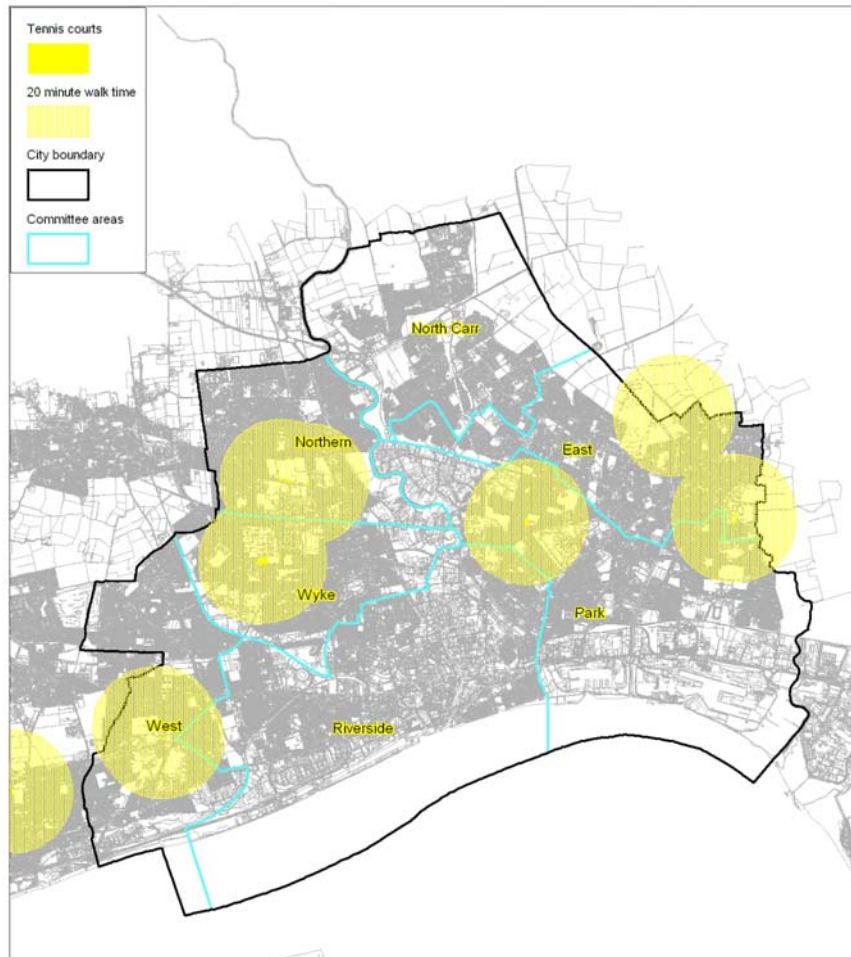


Figure 10 - Accessibility to tennis courts.

Previous consultation during the Open Space audit demonstrated that 41% of residents perceived there to be shortfall of provision of tennis facilities. This was the highest of all sports.

### Quality

Whilst on paper there appears to be sufficient provision of tennis courts the majority of sites are either very poor or no longer in use. Grass tennis courts at Costello Playing fields are now derelict and the surfaces of hard courts across the city have become uneven and crumbling. Pelican Park is the only public quality provision of any note with the exception of David Lloyd. A full list of clubs in the Hull area is shown in Figure 12.

### Future Demand

Sport England stats show Tennis is one of few sports where participation is increasing. Number of adults participating 30 minutes or more per week is 530,200. Number of adults participating monthly is 987,400. Number of 16-19

year olds participating increased from 08 to 09 by nearly 5,000. Nearly 1.3 million people have said in the Active People Survey that they want to play more tennis. The barrier is knowing where they can play locally - and access to courts and activities. The LTA has a target to encourage 150,000 new participants and 40,000 competing juniors nationally by 2013 - 10% in Yorkshire.

There is limited schools activity with a number of primary school links being developed but secondary schools are lacking in providing tennis due to facility access/provision. This can be addressed through the BSF project.

Organisation Name	Membership Number	Clubmark	FLOODLIT	NON LIT	INDOOR	IN TEMP	TOTAL Courts	Total	adult members hips (From Affiliation Invoice)	junior members hip (From Affiliation Invoice)	Mini members hip (From Affiliation Invoice)	Adult British Tennis membership	Junior BTM	Child BTM	Regularly competing juniors	Capacity
Pelican Park City Tennis Club	YOR417	C	6	0	0	0	6	400	147	130	82	13	33	8	4 (6+) 11 (1-5)	133%
David Lloyd Club Hull	YOR151	C	5	0	7	0	12	284	n/a	n/a	n/a	191	48	29	21 (6+) 5 (1-5)	47%
Nuffield Tennis Academy	YOR137	C / S	0	0	6	0	9	327	0	50	70	46	100	100	80 (6+) 22 (1-5)	73%
Hull YPI Tennis Club	YOR042	C	3	6	0	0	9	289	59	25	51	51	42	38	13 (6+) 16 (1-5)	192% sept - may. 58% May - Sept (grass courts)

Figure 11 - Tennis Clubs in Hull



## **5.5. Hockey Pitches**

### Quantity and Distribution of Pitches

Since the amalgamation of a number of senior clubs to form Kingston-upon-Hull Hockey Club, much of the hockey in the City has been concentrated at the Kingston Communication Stadium site. There is one water-based pitch and one sand filled pitch adjacent the Stadium.

The synthetic grass pitches at Hull University and Princess Elizabeth Playing Field also provide home grounds for local clubs. All hockey in the area at club level is played on synthetic grass pitches.

### Quality of Pitches

As is to be expected, pitches at the Kingston Communications Stadium are rated as being of excellent quality.

### Changing facilities

A major concern from the hockey teams is the lack of changing facilities within the immediate vicinity of both the KC stadium pitches and that at Princess Elizabeth Playing Fields.

## 5.6. Rugby Union Pitches

### Quantity and Distribution of Pitches

All of the rugby union in Hull is played at private grounds.

There do not appear to be any problems in quantity of pitch provision and some pitches are shared with rugby league teams. Distribution throughout the City is uneven with none within the City boundary on the eastern side of Hull.

As the Rugby Football Union continues its considerable efforts to develop and promote the game in and around the City, pitch availability may well become an issue.

Rugby Union clubs tend to have their own grounds since their clubhouse and social facilities are an integral part of club activity and fund raising. The centralisation of club activities at a 'home ground' also helps to retain players as they move from junior to senior level.

### Quality of Pitches

Site visits and information from clubs indicate that while pitches are generally adequate some suffer from poor drainage.

A lack of floodlit facilities was cited by the RFU as a limitation on some competitions.

### Quality of Changing Facilities

Changing rooms are generally rated as average or good by the teams responding to the questionnaire and by telephone enquiries.

### Future Demand

The RFU Facilities Plan has an overview of key objectives to sustain and improve the quality of existing facility stock and thereby grow the number of matches at all levels delivered by the "Framework Programme " .

If the clubs were to achieve the targets set out in the development plan the number of new junior teams would be a total of 38 for Hull. This excludes open age. The facility targets are focused as follows:-

- Increase adult participation by 2% annual to 24yrs by 2%.
- Increase 13 to 16yrs by 2%.
- Increase under represented groups by 1%,
- Increase events by 5%,
- 50% of all clubs to be accredited.

## **5.7. Rounders Fields**

### Quantity and Distribution of Fields

As rounders is a summer sport there appears to be little difficulty in teams finding suitable venues. The teams often play at school sites where rounders fields are often already marked out. Whilst there is no formal league within the city rounders pitches are marked out in several of the parks during the summer for informal use.

### Quality of Fields

The clubs do not normally have problems with the quality of playing areas as the games are played in summer.

## **5.8. Baseball and Softball**

### Quantity and Distribution of Diamonds

For a variety of historical reasons, Baseball used to be a very high profile sport in Hull and was the premier venue in the country for the sport.

The remaining facilities are at East Mount Community Centre, Sydney Smith School and derelict facilities at Alderman Kneeshaw Recreation Ground.

The Hull Baseball Club is now active and is very keen to develop the sport in the City to regain its national prominence. The Club uses the site at East Mount Community Centre and currently has one senior and one junior team. Benefiting from a number of highly qualified coaches, the Club expects to develop more teams relatively quickly.

The facility at Sydney Smith School is used by a junior team from Hessle.

### Quality of facilities

The facilities at East Mount Community Centre have recently been refurbished including improved drainage.

The facility at Sydney Smith School is poorly maintained and is sited in a very poorly drained area. At the time of the survey, worm infestation of the surface was causing grass damage and loss but it may improve sufficiently by the start of the summer season.

## **5.9. American Football**

### Quantity and Quality of Pitches and Changing Facilities

There is no American Football played by community-based teams in Hull other than the Club at Hull University. The University Club uses the playing field to the north of Inglemire Lane and has a pitch maintained to a good standard by the University. There are good changing facilities at the University Sports Complex.

## **5.10. Bowling Greens**

It is evident that the provision of bowling greens is higher in the west of the city than in the east. There are no facilities in the North Carr committee area. Application of the accessibility standard demonstrates that there are some areas where residents are out of the appropriate catchment for a facility, specifically:

- North Carr
- Bricknell
- Southcoates and Marfleet
- Myton.

In light of the distribution of current sites, investigation into the demand for bowling greens should be targeted at areas currently outside of the threshold for provision, particularly North Carr.

Outside areas where provision is limited, qualitative improvements should be targeted to ensure that facilities are as inviting as possible for local residents. Site assessments revealed that some existing sites are suffering from vandalism and graffiti however in contrast some facilities are of particularly high standard.

### **5.11. Synthetic turf pitches**

The current supply of publicly accessible synthetic turf pitches is extremely limited with existing facilities being towards if not past their best. The best community facilities are at the KC stadium, West Park.

The Building Schools for the Future programme is proposing a range of synthetic facilities over the next five years with the assurance of community use. See Section 7 for more details of the proposals.

It is important that given the scale of the investment in the number of pitches that sufficient provision is given towards their maintenance and renewal as required.

The role of STPs for football is currently to absorb midweek training and, in some cases, matches. In most of these cases the matches could not be played on grass pitches due to the lack of lighting. Therefore, the role of STPs as an alternative to grass pitches is limited due to current league rules.

Their greatest impact, along with MUGAs, is in fact likely to be helping to free up sports hall space for other sports by accommodating five-a-side football.

## **6. Provision by Area**

### **6.1. East Area**

Application of the quantity standard reveals that there is sufficient provision of outdoor sports facilities to meet current and future demand. Although there is a lack of outdoor sports facilities in the area, accessibility mapping indicates that all residents in the East committee area have access to a grass pitch within the recommended 10 minute walk time.

The majority of grass pitches in the East area committee are school sites and therefore offer limited public access. However, Ings Road Playing Fields, Alderman Kneeshaw Recreation Ground and Longhill Playing Fields are council owned facilities. These sites are publicly accessible and Alderman Kneeshaw Recreation Ground is the largest site in the area. These three sites are well distributed and provide local access to the majority of residents

The East Area Committee will benefit significantly from improved provision through the BSF programme with potential for hockey and football provision at Andrew Marvel College.

### **6.2. Northern Area**

The highest quantity of outdoor sports facilities is located in the Northern area committee and quantitative analysis reveals that there is sufficient provision of outdoor sports facilities to meet current and future demand. Accessibility mapping illustrates this adequate level of provision, with all residents in the area having access to a grass pitch within the recommended catchment.

Of the grass pitch sites in the area one of the sites is Queen Elizabeth Playing Fields and this is due to become part of the Northern Academy Development Program. If this program goes ahead this site will be enhanced with higher quality facilities, including grass pitches.

The remaining sites include Oak Road Playing Fields, Dane Park Playing Fields and King George V Playing Fields which provide substantial pitch provision with the potential to improve in quality.

The BSF programme will see improvements to the quantity and quality of facilities at the Northern Academy and St Marys School. There is potential that high quality facilities for cricket training and football will be provided in this area.

### **6.3. North Carr Area**

Application of the quantity standard indicates that there is adequate provision of outdoor sports facilities to meet current future demand. Accessibility mapping illustrates this sufficient provision with all residents in the area having access to a grass pitch within the recommended 15 minute walk time.

Within the North Carr area there is a significant number of publicly accessible grass pitches. These sites are well distributed across the area and provide local access to a grass pitch for a large number of residents in the North Carr area committee.

The quality of publicly accessible grass pitches in the area is varying and Ennerdale Playing Fields is a site in need of significant improvement. This highlights room for improvement and site assessments reveal that Ennerdale Playing Fields has the potential to be an excellent site. Therefore, the council should focus on enhancing the quality of publicly accessible grass pitches in the area. Increasing access to publicly accessible grass pitches will also be important.

The BSF programme will see the redevelopment of Kingswood College of Arts. This is likely to generate improved provision for football.

### **6.4. Park Area**

Accessibility mapping highlights that all residents are within the recommended catchment of a grass pitch. Despite this high level of access to grass pitches, application of the quantity standard indicates that there is insufficient provision of outdoor sports facilities to meet current and future demand.

The greatest number of grass pitches is located in the Park committee area although only a minority of these sites have full public access. East Park and Pelican Park are located in this area and provide a number of sporting and recreational opportunities to local residents, with football, tennis, cricket and bowling facilities provided at these sites.

The BSF programme indicates that Archbishop Thurstan School and Malet Lambert School are identified for improvement. Both of these sites will offer community use and when completed these sites will provide high quality facilities that will represent a significant upgrade from the existing facility stock.

## **6.5. Riverside Area**

The largest quantitative shortfall of outdoor sports facilities is located in the Riverside area committee. Application of the quantity standard reveals that there is insufficient provision to meet current and future demand. Despite a large quantitative shortfall of outdoor sports facilities in the area, accessibility mapping indicates that nearly all residents have access to a grass pitch. Only a small number of residents located in the south of the Myton ward are outside the catchment of a grass pitch.

The quality of grass pitches in the area is varied and in particular publicly accessible sites are of poor quality in this area of the city.

## **6.6. West Area**

Quantitative analysis indicates that there is insufficient provision of outdoor sports facilities to meet current and future demand. However, application of the accessibility standard reveals that nearly all residents in the West Area Committee have access to a grass pitch within a 15 minute walk time.

The lowest number of grass pitches is found in the West committee area (10). However, Costello Park (16.17 hectares) is the second largest grass pitch site in the city. This site is publicly accessible and provides six football pitches, three cricket pitches, four bowling greens and 11 tennis courts. Costello stadium is also situated next to this site.

Costello Park is located in the centre of the West committee area in the Boothferry ward and the wide range of outdoor sports facilities provided make this site a focal point of the community. The current quality score of this site is 78%, highlighting room for improvement.

## **6.7. Wyke Area**

Accessibility mapping illustrates that nearly all residents in the Wyke committee area have access to a grass pitch within the recommended 15 minute walk time. Only a small number of residents in the north east of the Newland ward cannot access a grass pitch. However, due to this area being industrial land there is not a requirement for a grass pitch. Application of the quantity standard reinforces this high level of accessibility, with there being sufficient provision of outdoor sports facilities to meet current and future demand.

The distribution of pitches in the area is poor, with the majority of sites located in the west of the committee area. The only publicly accessible grass pitches are also located in this area meaning that there is restricted public access to grass pitches for residents in the east of the committee area.

The quality of grass pitches in the Wyke committee area is good.



## 7. Building Schools for the Future Programme

Hull's BSF programme represents a £400M vision to deliver joined-up education through "Learning Centres", which are central to learning communities and part of a future learning City. As part of a whole-City plan, BSF is one of a number of regeneration projects aimed at changing the City's expectation from "perceived low achievement" to one of "high attainment". Schools will be open and accessible places acting as a hub for the local delivery of wrap-around extended services and integrated Children and Young People's services, creating better opportunities through joined-up services and multi-agency working.

Following high level and strategic proposals driven through the BSF "Sports Workstream", agreement has been reached to fund new, high quality sports provision over and above those provided through standards BSF funding. Hull BSF will deliver the following **minimum provision** at each of its future schools:

- A main hall sufficient for assemblies of at least half the school at one time, examinations, public performances, parents' evenings and community events
- A four badminton court hall, which should be designed to Sport England's specification, including the critical dimensions (18m x 33m x 7.6m)
- An activity studio of at least 145m<sup>2</sup>, with a minimum internal width of 10m and height of 3.5m and a sprung floor, suitable for some gymnastics activities, dance and examinations if required
- Playing fields area falls into a number of categories; sports pitches, game courts, soft informal and social, hard informal and social and habitat areas
- The equivalent of 7 sports pitches, configured to meet curriculum needs as a core requirement e.g. winter pitches for preferred team games and overlapping summer pitches for athletics, cricket etc
- Synthetic turf pitches can be provided for up to half size (60m x 50m) and would be counted twice in terms of pitch numbers, due to the intensive use
- A multi-use games area, with 3 netball courts overlaid with critical dimensions of 60m x 33m and further tennis and netball courts
- Ancillary provision; Indoor changing, outdoor changing, reception area, toilets, office and storage all separate to the school to service community use

The full executive summary of the report *BSF Investment in Sport March 2008* can be found in Appendix H.

DRAFT BSF: New Sports Facilities rev. 1		Note: all phase 1 & 2 and pre-LEP facilities are 'proposals'. Sample schemes are confirmed.																				Phase 3			
Phase	Sample Schemes	Phase 1										Phase 2								Phase 3					
School Opens	Sept '11	Sept '12										Sept '13													
Minimum Provision under BB98:	School	Winifred Holby & Tweendyles	Archbishop Sentamu Academy	Sirius Academy	Kelvin Hall	Malet Lambert	Andrew Marvell	Kingswood	Endike	Myplace	Tilbury/Bethune	Oakfield	Northern Academy	Hull Trinity House	Newland School for Girls	St. Mary's	Bridgeview	Friederick Holmes	Fountain House	Northcott	Schoolgirl's Mum's Unit	Ashwell	Medical Needs Unit	Endeavour High School (ICT only)	
build type	PFI	PFI			D&B	PFI	PFI	D&B	D&B		PFI	D&B												D&B	
	A four badminton court hall (designed to Sport England's specification, including the critical dimensions 18m x 33m x 7.6m)	1no.	1no.	1no. (6no. courts)	extg.	1no.	1no. (6no. courts)	1no. (6no. courts)				x	x	x	x	1no. (6no. courts)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
(min 145m2 with sprung floor)	<b>Activity studio</b>	1no.	1no.	1no.	1no.	1no.	1no.	1no.				x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
The equivalent of 7 sports pitches, configured to meet curriculum needs as a core requirement e.g. winter pitches for preferred team games and overlapping summer pitches for athletics, cricket etc	<b>Playing Fields Area:</b>																								
	- Winter Sports:																								
	- Senior Football	1no.	2no.	4no.	4no.	3no.	2no.					1no.													
	- Junior Football	2no.	2no.				1no.				x		2no.												
	- Senior Rugby	1no.	1no.	1no.	1no.	2no.	1no.					1no.													
	- Junior Rugby	1no.	1no.				1no.																		
	- Summer Sports:																								
	- 10m Training Grids	4no.	2no.		3no.	4no.							1no.												
	- Rounders Pitch	2no.	2no.	1no.	1no.	3no.							3no.												
	- Softball Markings	x																							
	- High Jump		1no.	1no.	1no.	1no.		1no.					x												
	- triple jump												x												
	- Combined long jump & triple jump	1no.				1no.																			
	- long jump		1no.	1no.				1no.					x												
	- Javelin	1no.	1no.	1no.	1no.	1no.		1no.					x												
	- 400m athletics track	7 lane	8 lane	6 lane	6 lane	1no.		1no.					x												
	- 80m running straight	1no.																							
	- 100m Running straight	1no.	1no.	6lane	6 lane	1no.		1no.	x																
	- 8 Wicket cricket square and outfield (37m from all directions, end of the square laid as a synthetic wicket)	1no.	1no.	1no.	1no.	1no.		1no.					1no. (4no. Square s not 8)												
	cricket nets and batting cage	1no.																							
- artificial cricket wicket					2no.							1no.													
- Shot putt throwing circle and markings	1no.	1no.	1no.	1no.	2no.	1no.	1no.					1no.													
- Discus throwing circle and markings	1no.	1no.	1no.	1no.	1no.	1no.	1no.					1no.													
Polymeric Running Track							1no.																		
A multi-use games area, with 3 netball courts overlaid with critical dimensions of 60m x 33m and further tennis and netball courts	<b>Hard Surface Games Court:</b>	1no.	1no.			2no.	2no.	1no.	1no.			1no.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
	<b>Markings:</b>																								
	- Tennis	4no.	5no.	4no.	7no.	4no.						4no.													
	- 5-a-side	1no.			5no.							x													
	- fall surface	1no.																							
	- Netball	3no.	5no.	3no.	5no.	6no.						x													
	<b>Additional Netball Court</b>					2no.	2no.	4no.																	
Synthetic turf pitches can be provided for up to half size (60m x 50m) and would be counted twice in terms of pitch numbers, due to the intensive use	<b>Artificial Grass Pitches:</b>																								
	- Synthetic Turf Pitch											1no.													
	- 3G Pitch (floodlit)		1no.	1no.	1no.	1no.	1no.																		
	- Humber prem. Pitch with dugouts						1no.																		
	<b>Swimming Pool</b>	1no.																							
	<b>climbing wall</b>				1no.		1no.																		
	<b>cycling track</b>	1no.		1no.			1no.																		
	<b>Trim Trail</b>	1no.					1no.	1no.																	
	<b>BMX track/area</b>							1no.																	

Figure 12 - Building Schools for the Future proposed sports provision

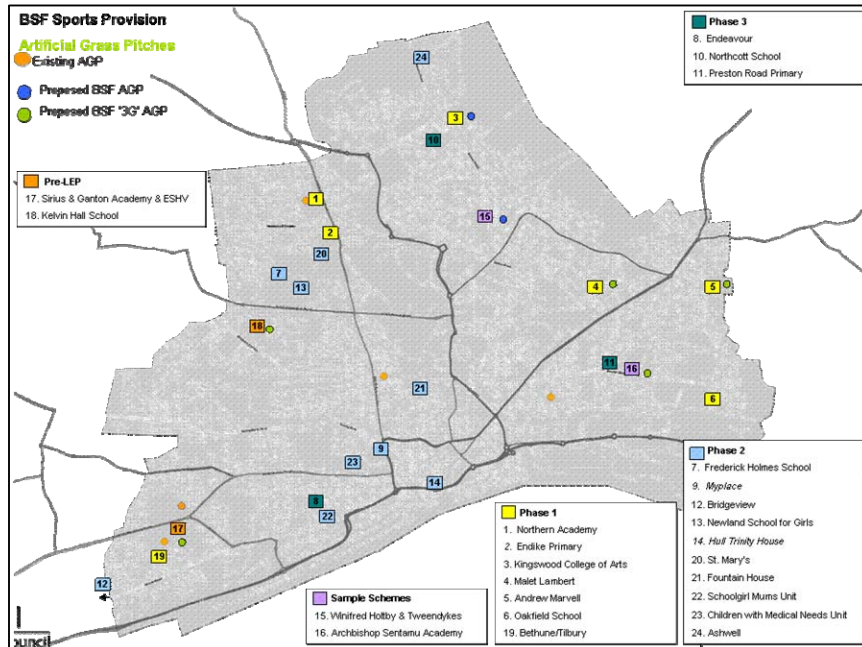


Figure 13 – Building Schools for the Future Proposed AGP provision

The above map shows the proposed locations of artificial grass pitches in relation to current provision. If all delivered the pitches will provide access for all of the cities residents within the 20 minute walk time target.

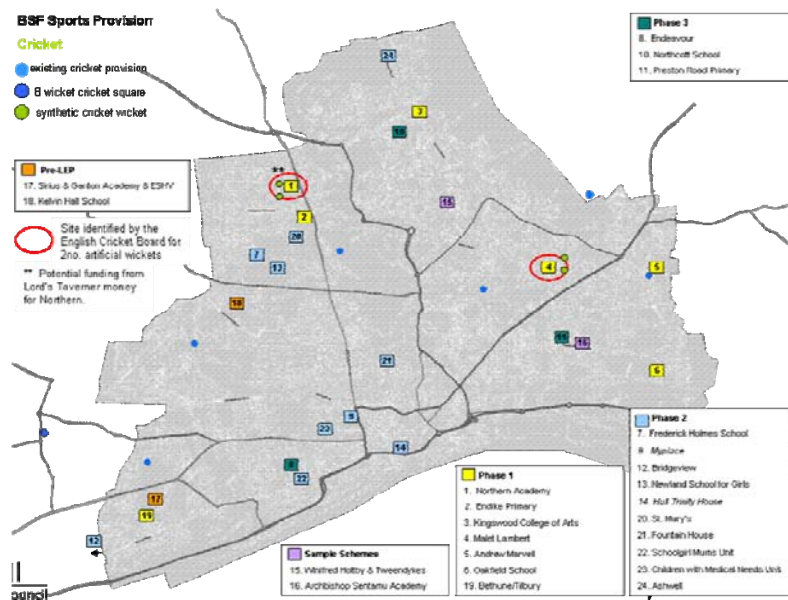


Figure 14 – BSF proposals for cricket provision

Figure 14 shows the proposed cricket provision with the inclusion of artificial wickets at both the Northern and Malet Lambert Academy's. This will greatly enhance the quality provision of cricket within the city and help to maximise the projected growth in the sport over the next 5-10 years.

## **8. Conclusions**

### **8.1. Extent of Facilities**

The City of Kingston-upon-Hull has extensive areas of parks, recreation grounds and playing fields distributed widely throughout the City. While a large number of teams use winter games pitches in and around Hull, numbers have declined over recent years largely due to the fall in quality standards of the pitches. If Government policies and individual sports Governing Bodies' initiatives are successful, the numbers of participants are likely to rise significantly over the next twenty years so an increase in quality provision will be required.

In addition to a potential increase in the numbers of facilities being required, the City lacks intermediate level venues. At the elite level, the Kingston Communications Stadium provides an excellent venue with a top quality playing surface, available for high-level competition. Craven Park to the east of the city also provides high quality facilities.

Below these premier sites, there are a number of well-run club sites as well as the Hull University playing fields. However, every one of the facilities is oversubscribed, despite the fact that none have the full range of facilities required to host mid range competitions. For example, none has a floodlit grass pitch.

Hard ball cricket has moved away from the schools and is declining in parks despite the number of available pitches.

Rugby union is adequately catered for by the clubs in the City playing at private grounds.

Rugby League is well catered for apart from the excessive demand on Sunday mornings and this pressure is likely to increase in the coming years.

The demand for football pitches will also increase over the next 5-10 years.

Efforts to revive baseball as a major sport in the City are at an early stage. As this is a summer sport, the construction and maintenance of facilities is not a major cost. It would be preferable if a dedicated site could be used if widespread participation in the sport does again become popular, so that the playing area does not lie on a winter games pitch.

### **8.2. Quality of Provision**

The inherent low permeability of the soils over most of the City area results in slow draining soils and playing surfaces that waterlog easily. Without high specification sports pitch drainage systems and soil amelioration, problems universally identified with the winter games pitches will continue.

Even if pitches were to be upgraded, they would require careful management to ensure that they do not revert to slow draining surfaces. However, it is evident that pitch improvement works can be effective and that if the staff are given the skills, the facilities can be managed and maintained to a good standard.

The poor condition of some changing rooms and the lack of sufficient changing accommodation are significant problems that need to be addressed. All players deserve to be able to change and shower in reasonable comfort.

The lack of sufficient numbers of changing rooms is a severe restriction on the development of girls' and women's sport. Sites with a larger number of pitches or squares need to have sufficiently extensive changing facilities, that some can be designated for girls' and women's use when required. The design of the facilities must be adjusted to allow this variation in use.

Players' expectations of the quality of provision are very low in many cases. However, this will change with time for two reasons. Firstly, initiatives promoted by the Government, Sport England and National Governing Bodies of sport are being accompanied by large funding packages and increasing publicity. Sports men and women expect these policies and initiatives to bear tangible fruit. Secondly, people involved in sport, whether as players, coaches or administrators, or indeed as supporters, will see improvements at other venues beyond the City at away games and tournaments.

When outdoor conditions are poor, there is a natural drift to indoor facilities in sports halls. This is a very expensive alternative for the provider. The FA believe the growth of indoor football competitions at the expense of the outdoor 11-a-side game is due, at least in part, to the lack of adequate changing facilities and the poor condition of the playing surfaces. Most players would prefer to play 11-a-side football but many are put off by the conditions. The conditions also have a high impact on the conversion of junior players into seniors. The potential heavy use of sports halls for football training and casual small-sided games can become an easy management option to the detriment of sports development.

Vandalism throughout the City is a major cost to the providers of the facilities. It also raises serious health and safety issues particularly on pitches used by children. Dog fouling is also an issue, although its extent varies from site to site.

The fencing of school playing fields a few years ago made a substantial difference to the problems that are currently being experienced on park sites. While it would not be financially viable, practicable or fair to fence in and lock all the playing pitch sites in the City, some protection should be provided.

### **8.3. Devolved Community Management**

Many clubs would like to have their 'own home ground' and it is recommended that policy be developed and adopted whereby well-established clubs can be

encouraged to manage facilities that they have historically used under the terms of a licence or lease. The open parks sites are a major problem because of the abuse they suffer from vandals. Establishment of enclosed grounds for individual clubs has a number of important benefits:

- The club has a base from which to operate and can be more organised.
- There is a strong incentive for the club to develop the facilities to a high standard.
- The club has an opportunity to become financially viable by the efficient running of a clubhouse.
- Member retention is easier as the club can develop a strong corporate identity and bonds with its members.
- The club can develop a strong social arm, which benefits the club itself and the community.
- Players, particularly younger players, can play in a much safer environment.
- The transition from junior to senior player can be nurtured more easily in clubs that have an attractive home base and juniors feel they 'belong' with the club.
- If the club is successful it can more easily develop its facilities to meet the requirements of higher leagues.
- When the club is self-sufficient it relieves pressure on the resources of the local authority.

Hulls' schools are generally very active in supporting community use. Many of the clubs' junior teams and some senior teams play on school playing fields and there is a genuine enthusiasm to expand this service to the community. Schools find close association with community clubs fosters good relations with those in their immediate neighbourhoods and dramatically reduces vandalism. The issue of payments to schools for community use by junior teams to cover the additional maintenance and management costs needs to be reconsidered urgently and must be related to the extent of use.

Schools that have large playing fields and substantial community use should have changing and shower facilities. Suitable schools should be targeted to have facilities provided and be the sites at which girls' sports can be fostered. A sufficient range of changing rooms must be provided at some of the sites to allow for female as well as male use. Selected schools should be geographically spread to serve the whole of the City.

#### **8.4. Links**

There are a growing number of links between schools, clubs, the local authority staff and active and potential participants in sport. Forming these links into a robust structure and taking advantage of the training being made available for coaches and sports administrators throughout the system will allow the whole community to draw maximum benefit from the initiatives current under way. Hull is well advanced with developing its two Specialist Sports Colleges. The establishment of links through secondary schools to primary schools is underway.

The City's Sports Development Staff run a number of initiatives involving a wide variety of people in sport and active recreation.

The development of links to clubs will complete the structure and allow a co-ordinated approach to achieve the objectives of greater participation and nurturing of particularly talented competitors.

However, the very heavy use of club facilities raises concerns regarding the capacity of some sites to accommodate more players or games. With limited capacity, there is a danger that some clubs will become overly selective in attracting players, leaving the less talented fewer opportunities for participation.

The success of the efforts to involve more participation will result in new challenges for the providers. Hull City Council, being the major provider will no doubt face the greatest challenge.

## 9. Recommendations

PPS 1 - All Pitches should be capable of carrying a minimum of two games per week throughout the season, without excessive loss of grass cover. Maintenance should therefore be improved to include the minimum requirements from the Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI) as detailed in Appendices

PPS 2 – A single access point should be available for the public to book outdoor sports facilities within the city. A more joined up approach particularly incorporating school facilities would be very beneficial in promoting the use of these pitches.

PPS 3 - All sites where there is community use of pitches should be provided with appropriate changing accommodation with shower facilities.

PPS 4 - Provision should be increased for mini and junior football and rugby by the establishment of a network of smaller sized pitches in accordance with governing body recommendations.

PPS 5 - Mini and junior football and rugby for teams and clubs without their own grounds should be encouraged to develop 'home grounds' at schools sites rather than on public parks to maximise the use of existing facilities.

PPS 6 - A network of training facilities with surfaces suitable for football, rugby and cricket should be established throughout the City. These surfaces should ideally be floodlit and fenced and supported by appropriate changing facilities with showers.

PPS 7 – Due to predicted increase in demand for Rugby League and Football as outlined through the Playing Pitch Model, an increase in the number of pitches needs to be accommodated over the next 10 years.

PPS 8 – Improvement in the quality of cricket provision is required to promote and encourage the sport within the city

PPS 9 – Access to tennis courts should be improved allowing the public more ease of entry into the sport through working closely with the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA)

PPS 10 – The strategy and its findings should be used to help direct monies for the specific benefit of improved playing pitch provision. The strategy should also be used as the foundation from which to build proposals for development that will attract external funding.



## **10. Evaluation and Review**

It is suggested that the a cross-departmental steering group is established to oversee and evaluate the implementation of the actions required to deliver the Playing Pitch Strategy and for its progress to be reviewed three years after its adoption.

## **11. List of Appendices**

Appendix A – List of current playing pitch provision

Appendix B – Pitch Assessments

Appendix C – Playing Pitch Model

Appendix D - Maintenance Standards

Appendix E – Sports Turf Research Institute Winter Pitch Report

Appendix F – Sports Turf Research Institute Summer Pitch Report

Appendix G – Rugby League Workshop Notes

Appendix H - BSF Investment in Sport March 2008