

**APPENDIX 4 – PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT SUMMARY AND ASSESSMENT  
CALCULATIONS**

**LONDON BOROUGH  
OF HARROW**

**OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITY  
ASSESSMENT**

*An Initial Draft Report*

*By*

**Strategic Leisure Limited**

**March 2005**

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# SECTION I – INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

## Introduction

- 1.1 Strategic Leisure Limited (SLL) was commissioned by the London Borough of Harrow (LBH) to undertake an assessment of Playing Pitches. The assessment forms part of a wider Sport, Recreation and Open Space Study undertaken to address the requirements of Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (PPG 17). This report provides a standalone assessment and a number of recommendations relating to outdoor sports facilities. References to this report and a summary of the findings are included within the overarching report for all Open Spaces.
- 1.2 This report presents the findings of the various assessments undertaken. The assessment of pitch provision for football, cricket, rugby and hockey has been undertaken using the prescribed methodology detailed in “*Toward a Level Playing Field*” (Sport England, 2003). The assessment of other key outdoor sports, including lawn bowls, tennis, and athletics, has been undertaken using a variety of audit and consultation exercises.
- 1.3 Although undertaken as a discrete assessment exercise, the results of the assessments and recommendations made should be considered alongside the wider Open Space Assessment and Strategy.

## Report Format and Structure

- 1.4 Key findings, conclusions and recommendations made are reported as follows:
  - **Section 1** summarises the scope of the study, key background information and the strategic context within which the assessment and strategy development has been undertaken
  - **Section 2** details the findings of the Playing Pitch assessment for football, cricket, rugby and hockey. The assessment has been undertaken using the methodology prescribed in “*Toward a Level Playing Field*”
  - **Section 3** details the findings of the assessment of other key outdoor sports, notably bowls, tennis, and athletics
  - **Section 4** makes a number of key strategic recommendations and details key actions required to address the issues identified

## Scope of the Study – Inclusions & Exclusions

- 1.5 The study undertaken has included an assessment of key outdoor sports within the Harrow borough for which formal facilities are required and LBH provide a key role, either as a direct provider, enabler or facilitator.
- 1.6 **Inclusions.** The sports which have been included within the assessment are:

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- Football
- Cricket
- Rugby
- Hockey
- Bowls
- Tennis
- Athletics

### **Why Develop an Outdoor Sports Facility Strategy?**

- 1.7 The rationale for undertaking the study is to identify current levels of provision in the area, across the public, education, voluntary and commercial sectors, and to compare this with current, and likely future levels of demand. The supply and demand analysis will help identify the need for new facilities, and also suggest where there are too many facilities, perhaps in the wrong location. The analysis will help to underpin future planning policy and allocation, and help to support bids for external funding.

### **Specific Issues to be tackled by the Strategy**

- 1.8 The development of new residential areas, population growth and changing expectations of leisure activities and opportunities all have implications for future provision of playing pitches and other outdoor sports facilities. Equally, the plans of other providers will have an influence on the future location, mix and scale of playing pitch, green and court provision in the LBH.
- 1.9 Increasing concern at national government level over the loss of playing fields has prompted the need for 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, greens and court supply and demand is necessary to:
- protect facilities against development pressures, and specifically residential proposals on land in, and around, urban areas
  - identify facility supply and demand issues in relation to predicted population changes
  - address 'demand' pressures created as a result of specific sports development pressures, for example, mini soccer, move to use of artificial pitches by hockey
- 1.10 The LBH Assessment and Strategy covers the overall Borough area and considers in some cases the influence of supply and demand from adjoining districts.
- 1.11 A major driving factor for this assessment and strategy is the need to identify a hierarchy of investment priorities for facility improvements and development, which can inform the continued development of effective Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG). This will need to encompass an assessment of use and quality of sites and whether they are currently "fit for purpose". Information collated and recommendations made will also help inform decision making for future delivery of pitches, greens and courts for example, as a direct provider or enabler through leasing facilities).

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### Benefits of an Outdoor Sports Facility Strategy

- 1.12 There are a number of key benefits in undertaking a local assessment and developing a strategy for the LBH. These can be summarised as<sup>1</sup>:
- 1.13 **Corporate and Strategic benefits**, which include:
- Ensuring a **strategic approach** to facility provision. During times of change for local authorities, a strategy will provide direction and set priorities for pitch, green and court sports. The playing pitch assessment will also form part of the Council's overarching assessment of Open Space (as prescribed as part of the revised Policy Planning Guidance Note 17 – PPG17)
  - Providing **robust evidence** for capital funding. As well as proving the need for developer contributions towards facilities, a strategy can provide evidence of need for a range of capital grants. Current funding examples include the Sport England Lottery Fund, Heritage Lottery Fund (as part of wider park improvements), the Football Foundation and New Opportunities Fund.
  - It will **help to deliver government policies** for social inclusion, environmental protection, community involvement and healthy living
  - It will help to **demonstrate the value of leisure related services** during times of increasing scrutiny for non-statutory services
  - It will help demonstrate **commitment to Best Value**. The assessment methodology has included considerable **consultation** with local sports clubs, schools and stakeholders, **challenges** the current pitch, court and green supply arrangements, **compares** some aspects for example, hire fees of facilities with those of neighbouring authorities and as a result can encourage **competitiveness**.
- 1.14 **Planning related benefits**, which include:
- Providing a basis for establishing new facility requirements arising from new housing developments
  - It is one of the best “tools” for the protection of facilities threatened by development
  - It links closely with work being undertaken on open spaces (through PPG17) to provide an holistic approach to open space improvement and protection
- 1.15 **Operational benefits**, which include:
- Improving the local authority's asset management by providing detailed audit information and facility user views. This should result in more efficient use of resources and reduced overheads
  - It highlights locations and specific sites where quality can be enhanced

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<sup>1</sup> Taken from “Towards a Level Playing Field” (Sport England, CCPR, 2002)

## SECTION I – INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.16 **Sports Development benefits**, which include:
- Helping to identify where community use of school pitches and courts is most needed
  - Providing better information to residents and other users of facilities
  - Helping to promote sports development by helping to unlock latent demand through identifying where facilities are lacking and might be suppressing the formation and further development of teams

### National Strategic Context

- 1.17 A review of the national strategic context, within which playing pitches and wider sport and recreation services are provided, is important in justifying current provision and future investment. A full review of the national planning context is provided in Appendix 1, and the national sporting context is provided in Appendix 2.
- 1.18 The provision of formal outdoor sports facilities as part of sport and recreation services can have a positive impact across the social policy agenda, helping the local authority to achieve social inclusion, community development, community safety, lifelong learning, healthy living and sustainable development objectives.
- 1.19 The following contributions can be realised through a strategic plan based on a local assessment. These include:
- **Social Inclusion.** Facilities can relate to community identity, be a focus for local sporting activity, and encourage “collective” effort.
  - **Community Involvement** through providing local venues for sports teams who in turn can create or strengthen community identity and enhance the social fabric of an area. Success in local leagues by local teams can also create local pride.
  - **Community Safety.** Strong anecdotal evidence exists to show that sport has a part to play in preventing crime. Indirectly sport can have an impact by providing challenge and adventure, and giving meaning and a sense of purpose to young people’s lives. Ensuring that facility provision meets local needs is important in ensuring that sport fulfils its potential.
  - **Lifelong Learning.** Many important social attributes can be learnt through outdoor sports. Young people can develop a range of skills and attributes ranging from risk-taking through to social and behavioural skills
  - **Healthy living.** The health benefits of participation in sport are well documented. Facility provision is important in ensuring that effective development work can take place
  - **Local access and sustainable development.** Centralising several site facilities onto a single municipal site has a positive impact on maintenance etc but can have major effects on accessibility. It is important to ensure that local community pitches are available where needed.

## **SECTION II – HARROW BOROUGH ASSESSMENT: PLAYING PITCHES**

### **Playing Pitches: Assessment Methodology**

- 2.1 The Sport England and CCPR methodology for assessing playing pitches (contained within “*Toward a Level Playing Field*”) does not provide specific standards for pitch provision that can be universally applied. Its focus is on providing the means for deriving **local** standards, using **local** information, and developing policy to meet **local** circumstances.

### **How the Methodology works**

- 2.2 The overall aim of the assessment methodology is to determine the number of pitches required for each specific sport (**Football, Cricket, Rugby Union and Hockey**) to meet demand or a predicted set of circumstances, for e.g. future population projections.
- 2.3 Ascertaining accurate supply and demand information is critical in producing a robust, accurate strategy, which is ‘owned’ by all stakeholders.
- 2.4 The methodology for assessing local playing pitch provision comprises of an eight-stage approach, as summarised overleaf in Figure 2.1. This methodology is designed for use in football, rugby, cricket and hockey. The methodology “*does not include provision for athletics, tennis and bowls, and is therefore concerned with a more limited range of provision than that embraced by the Outdoor Playing Space Standard of the National Playing Fields Association*”. An assessment of bowls, tennis, and athletics is reported in Section III of this report.

## SECTION II – HARROW BOROUGH ASSESSMENT: PLAYING PITCHES

Figure 2.1 – Assessment Methodology for Football, Rugby, Hockey and Cricket

| Stage   | Description and Key Output   |
|---------|--|
| Stage 1 | <p><b>Identification of the number of teams</b></p> <p>The team is the most basic unit of demand. Demand is established through a count of the number of teams for each sport using a variety of information sources, including pitch booking records, league handbooks, and a club survey. Latent demand and the impact of future population projections should also be considered. In this study the future levels of demand have been assessed, together with current latent demand through analysis of the questionnaire information returned.</p> |
| Stage 2 | <p><b>Calculating home games per team per week</b></p> <p>This figure can be derived from survey data or assumptions can be made. In a 'normal' situation for winter sports, the number of home games is calculated as 0.5 of the total number of teams, representing weekly 'home' and 'away' fixtures. For cricket, and the more senior levels of other sports, it is likely to be higher than 0.5 due to the tendency for teams to play more than once per week</p>   |
| Stage 3 | <p><b>Assessing Total Number of Home Games per week</b></p> <p>This variable is the product of Stages 1 and 2, and is therefore not independent. The resultant figure will indicate how many games have to be accommodated in the study area in the average week</p>   |
| Stage 4 | <p><b>Establishing Temporal Demand for Games</b></p> <p>This stage assesses the proportion of total home games played on each day. The data from this stage is expressed as a percentage of total weekly demand. This Stage will determine what percentage of all games are played on a Saturday for example</p>   |
| Stage 5 | <p><b>Defining pitches used / required on each day</b></p> <p>This variable is the product of Stages 3 and 4, and is not therefore independent. The resultant figure will indicate the pitches used/required on each day and time e.g. Saturday p.m.</p>   |
| Stage 6 | <p><b>Establishing Pitches available</b></p> <p>An accurate assessment of supply is produced which distinguishes between pitches for each sport and between ownership (public, private, voluntary and educational sites). In modelling the existing situation, only pitches currently available for the appropriate days/times will be relevant.</p>   |
| Stage 7 | <p><b>Assessing the Findings</b></p> <p>The requirements to accommodate demand assessed at Stage 5 are then compared with the facilities as available at Stage 6. If the existing situation has been accurately modelled there should be either a good numerical fit between requirements and facilities available, or even 'surplus' provision on some days.</p>  |
| Stage 8 | <p><b>Identifying policy options and solutions</b></p> <p>A range of policy options can be developed, such as new provision or pitch improvements, to help the problems identified at Stage 7. The method can then be used to further assess the impact of policy options, and contribute to the selection of the most cost-effective solution.</p>  |

Adapted from *Toward a Level Playing Field* – Sport England and CCPR (Page 11)

## **SECTION II – HARROW BOROUGH ASSESSMENT: PLAYING PITCHES**

### **Assessment of Supply**

2.5 The current supply of pitches was established through undertaking a series of data review, research and consultation exercises. These consisted of:

- Review of information held by LBH
- Audit of pitches owned and managed by LBH, and other providers at local level with identified community use
- Consultation with key stakeholders for example, Governing Bodies of Sport
- A postal survey of all schools within the authority
- A postal survey to all identified Sports Clubs as agreed with LBH
- Consultation with relevant neighbouring authorities

### **Assessment of Demand**

2.6 The current demand for pitches was established through undertaking a series of research and consultation exercises. These consisted of:

- An initial sports club questionnaire sent to identified clubs within the authority area (and a number located just outside of the boundary)
- A meeting with the Middlesex FA Development Officer
- Additional telephone consultation with key sports clubs
- Booking information from pitch sites within the authority area
- Analysis of local League handbooks
- Consultation with governing bodies of sport

### **Structure for the Strategy**

2.7 The supply and demand assessment has been undertaken:

- On the basis of a borough wide assessment
- Individual assessments for key area analysis areas. Three settlement areas have been identified on the basis of established areas for Central East and West of the Borough

2.8 Recommendations and the identification of priorities have been developed for each of the sports assessed with consideration to both the borough wide and area analysis findings. It is important to retain a borough wide perspective, and as a result some areas of the borough have greater needs for development and investment than others.

### **Data Collection Issues**

2.9 Establishing precisely how many pitches and teams there are within the study area is difficult for a number of reasons including:

- The number of pitches at a given site can fluctuate over short periods of time for reasons relating to management and husbandry. This means that the findings of a count conducted in one season may differ from results of similar exercise conducted previously or in future seasons. A specific example might relate to a

## **SECTION II – HARROW BOROUGH ASSESSMENT: PLAYING PITCHES**

sports and social club opting to supply a specific type of pitch because it yields a greater income potential, for example, football rather than rugby or cricket.

- The time at which site surveys are conducted will greatly influence the number of pitches identified through site investigation. This factor was not a major issue in relation to football, given that the majority of site visits were conducted at the commencement of the football season. However, cricket pitch locations are not always apparent outside of the playing season.
- Although the inspection programme helps to provide a consistent comparison across the borough, it may be difficult to compare quality against other authorities if inspections have been undertaken at different times.
- Mini football matches often make use of portable goals. This can make pitches difficult to identify through a site visit.
- Due to the timescale of the study, consultation was difficult to undertake, specifically because:
  - There is seasonal variation across the sports assessed. Whilst the consultation period covered the football season, it was the off-season period for cricket.

2.10 For the reasons stated previously the assessment of playing pitch supply and demand within the study area can only be considered to be a “snapshot” in time. There is a need to ensure that the data used within the assessment is updated at appropriate intervals to ensure the ongoing validity of the recommendations made.

### **Data Analysis**

2.11 A key component of the analysis of data was an examination of the extent to which pitches identified were in “secured public use”. This was undertaken in the context of the Sport England definition of community use, and broadly embraces:

- All local authority pitches (LBH)
- Educational facilities where they are subject to formal dual use / community use agreements / formal hire arrangements with local teams. This was assessed through a specific question on the Schools Questionnaire.
- Any other institutional facilities which are available to the public as a result of formal dual / community use agreements.
- Any facilities owned, used or maintained by clubs/private individuals, which as a matter of policy or practice are available by large sections of the public through membership of a club or admission fees.
- Only formal playing pitches that are marked out and in use for the relevant pitch sports have been included in the audit of facilities.

2.12 It is important to note the difference in outputs from assessment using the Sport England methodology (“*Toward a Level Playing Field*”) and more traditionally common assessments based on the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) “6 acre” standards. The two methods provide useful outputs in their own right, but can also provide conflicting conclusions. Fundamentally the key differences are:

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- The Sport England methodology is based on identifiable requirements of individual teams converted into an assessment of “peak-demand” for pitches
  - The NPFA assessment is a more simple calculation using an accepted ratio of space required per capita.
- 2.13 The application of these different methods can produce contrasting conclusions about the adequacy of sports pitches. Most notably it is possible to have a surplus of playing pitches against known demand (numbers of teams) but record a “deficiency” against the NPFA recommended standards of provision, or vice versa. It is important to acknowledge this key difference, particularly where previous planning policy has been informed by assessments using the NPFA standards.
- 2.14 Team Generation Rates (TGR's) have also been considered in the assessment of future needs for playing pitch provision. A TGR is the ratio of the number of teams within a given area to the total population within a given age group from that same area. The groupings which have been used reflect age groups participating in the different sub-groups of each of the assessed sports, for example 6-9 year olds for Mini Soccer.
- 2.15 Identifying TGR's provides the means to:
- Compare participation in the assessed sports between the study area (and areas within) and other parts of the country where TGR's have formed part of Playing Pitch Strategy developments.
  - Assist in modelling future demand for pitches.
- 2.16 The use of TGR's needs to be treated with caution. It is important to make use of them as a guide only and not at the expense of using qualitative evidence gathered as part of the study. Essentially, TGR's reflect the current situation and are based on current demand information. They may not include potential / latent demand where teams may for example not be able to develop due to lack of a suitable facility.

### **Inclusions, Exclusions and Exceptions – Sport on a Local Level**

- 2.17 The Assessment Methodology requires an assessment of the facilities' and teams' suitability to be included within the methodology. Specific teams and facilities must be excluded from the methodology in order to establish the local supply and demand for community accessible facilities. In this study, the Sport England Methodology includes key clubs within local communities, which contribute to the development of sporting opportunities for local people. These community clubs are often the key clubs within the local area and have open membership policies and sports development opportunities where otherwise they may not exist, despite them owning their own grounds, and having exclusive team use of the pitches thereon. These local factors must be taken into account when establishing the quantitative analysis of playing provision within the area.
- 2.18 The **facilities not** covered by assessment can be identified as follows:
- Industrial facilities which are reserved for the team associated with the site

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- Educational establishment facilities, which have no formal community use agreement and are not available for hire by the public.
- Professional or semi-professional stadia/pitches, which are reserved by a specific team for elite use only.
- All other sports pitches which are not available for public use for example, Prison Service, Military.

2.19 The **facilities that are** included in the assessment can be identified as follows:

- Local Authority owned facilities, which have established community access arrangements. Educational establishment facilities which have formal community use agreement and are available for hire by the public
- Voluntary and private facilities which are available to the public to hire
- Private clubs who own their own grounds, but who have open membership

2.20 It is more difficult to apply strict criteria to the assessment of demand. Many teams and sports clubs are comprised of members that live in neighbouring areas or settlements so it is not always easy to identify “where” a team comes from. People do not live their daily lives within the confines of a specific analysis area or council boundaries. Inevitably there are some “grey areas” relating to some clubs and whether they should be included within the assessment or not. It is important that the assessment reflects the way sport operates on a local level. As a result, the following assumptions have been made within the assessment:

### **Football**

- Only teams originating from the borough have been included.
- Clubs that clearly originate from Harrow but may use facilities that are just outside of the Borough have been included.
- With regard to determining where within the Borough teams originate, the following criteria have been applied:
  - Name of club / team (is this a clear indication of the settlement/ward/area that the team is from. If this is not obvious, then a judgement has been based on:
  - Headquarters of the club / team (as defined by League Handbook). If this is not obvious;
  - The location of the pitch (or main pitch site) that is used by the majority of teams. If this is not obvious, then a judgement has been based on;
  - Assumptions on the catchment area of specific leagues
  - The address of the team secretary has been used to “place” the club/team into an appropriate area

### **Cricket**

- The assessment on a local level (by defined settlement areas) has included Cricket Clubs and facilities through “placing” them into the area analysis area that they predominantly serve.

### **Rugby Union**

- Only Rugby Clubs that originate from the Borough have been included in the assessment.

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### Hockey

- Only Hockey clubs originating from the Borough have been included within the assessment. Only one club has been identified, Harrow Hockey Club.

### Audit of Current Supply

#### Overview

2.21 Playing pitch supply in the Harrow Borough is made through a number of providers. These include:

- London Borough of Harrow (LBH)
- Education Sites (schools and colleges)
- Private/Voluntary Sports Clubs, for example Broadfields.

2.22 Each of the individual providers of playing pitches can be defined in the following way:

- **LBH:** The main provider of playing pitches, courts and greens on public open spaces within the Borough. The majority of these pitches are within informal recreational land and are only defined as playing pitches during the time at which they are booked for formal sporting fixtures. The rest of the time these pitches are used as informal recreational space, and are available for use by any member of the public, including informal sports use, dog walking and formal event bookings.
- **Education Sites:** School playing fields are provided primarily for physical education and the enjoyment of young people attending school and College. These pitches are not always available to the local community to access on a formal and informal basis. The local management of schools has meant that some schools make their facilities available to the local community and others do not. This can result in significant playing pitch resources within local communities not being available for the local community to use.
- **Private/Voluntary Sports Clubs:** These are generally voluntary organisations, which lease or own their own ground and are the focus of that particular sport(s) within the local community. These private/voluntary clubs generally have open access policies and often link with key partners within the local community to offer coaching and development to the local community. Included in this category are the pitches owned by the Council but leased on a long term basis to local clubs for exclusive use. Examples include Broadfields.

#### Quantity

2.23 The audit of pitches identified that there are **37** playing pitch sites available for community use and **171** playing pitches (Football, Cricket, Rugby Union, Grass Hockey, Full size artificial turf pitch) within the Harrow BC boundary. This pitch supply is made up of the following:

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**Figure 2.3 – Playing Pitch Provision in Harrow Borough**

| Pitch Provider                    | Number of Sites | Number of Pitches |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| LBH                               | 20              | 115               |
| Education sites                   | 4               | 9                 |
| Private/Voluntary Sports Clubs    | 13              | 47                |
| <b>TOTAL PROVISION IDENTIFIED</b> | <b>37</b>       | <b>171</b>        |

\*Education sites only include formally marked pitch sites. Voluntary/Private sites include those owned by LBH but leased to a local club, private schools

- 2.24 There are pitches within local schools, which are not available to the local community for formal or informal use. However, it must be assumed that all local authority pitches are available to the local community to access on a formal and informal basis either through a formal hire agreement or through the sports clubs offering sports participation opportunities to the local community.
- 2.25 The following table identifies the sites, which do not have community (secured) use of their sports pitches.

**Figure 2.4 - Playing Pitches without secured community use in Harrow Borough**

| Pitch Provider                   | Number of Sites | Number of Pitches |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| LBH                              | 0               | 0                 |
| Education sites                  | 27              | 61                |
| Private/Voluntary Sports Clubs   | 4               | 10                |
| <b>TOTAL PROVISION AVAILABLE</b> | <b>31</b>       | <b>71</b>         |

- 2.26 The distribution of sites and pitches in Table 2.4 are shown on the Maps contained within the appendices. These detail the following:
- Map 19 (Pitch Distribution)
  - Map 20 (Pitch Quality)
  - Map 21 a – Bowls Greens Distribution
  - Map 21b Bowls Greens Quality
  - Map 22a Tennis Courts Distribution
  - Map 22b Tennis Courts Quality
  - Map 22c Athletics Tracks
- 2.27 LBH is the main provider of pitches (67% of all community accessible pitches), although school and private pitches collectively make up over half of the accessible supply in the Borough. This emphasises the need to work in partnership with other providers to ensure access for local teams.

### Quality

- 2.28 The quality of playing pitches was also assessed through:
- Site visits and a non-technical turf pitch quality assessment (PQA) of all pitches identified as having secured community use (based on a visual inspection)
  - Self ratings by schools of their own facilities
  - Ratings by local clubs of the facilities they use

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### **Non-Technical Visual Assessments**

2.29 For the non-technical turf quality pitch assessment, the scoring matrix devised as part of the Sport England Electronic Toolkit for undertaking pitch assessments was used. A copy of the site inspection proforma used is contained within the appendices to this report (Appendix 6). This will enable the results of the assessments within Harrow Borough to be compared with other inspection results in other areas. The key criteria areas assessed comprised:

- Grass Cover
- Length of Grass
- Size of pitch (in relation to recommended dimensions)
- Safety Margins
- Slope of pitch
- Evenness of pitch
- Presence of common problems such as dog fouling and litter
- Evidence of unofficial use
- Evidence that the pitch is also used for training
- Whether the pitch is served by changing accommodation
- Condition/quality of equipment (e.g Goalposts)
- Condition/quality of line markings
- Whether there are training areas on the site

2.30 Site inspections also rated the quality of changing and ancillary facilities for pitch site with community use, based on:

- Overall Quality
- Evidence of vandalism
- Whether there are showers
- Whether there are toilet facilities
- Whether the pitch site is served by car parking facilities
- Links to public transport
- Security
- Whether there is segregated changing to allow male and female sport to be accommodated on the site at the same time

2.31 Site visits were made in the period September - November 2004. This meant that in the case of cricket provision, many pitches were not marked as the season had finished. In some cases cricket outfielders are used for football pitch provision.

2.32 Inspections were undertaken on a total of 84 pitches across 23 pitch sites, encompassing:

- 65 Football Pitches
- 9 Cricket Pitches
- 8 Rugby Pitches
- 2 grass hockey pitches (Bannisters)

2.33 All pitches were rated using the Sport England scoring matrix, which provides a numerical score for each pitch. The maximum score for any one pitch is 100%. The key findings of the non-technical visual inspections showed that:

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- **Quality of all pitches** ranged greatly with ratings varying from 43% (“Below average”) through to 82% (“Excellent”). The average rating (mean) was 67.2% (Average-Good).
- **Football pitches** rated varied greatly, with 51% being the lowest score and 79% being the highest. The average (mean) was 67% (“Average”-“Good”).
- **Cricket pitches** rated varied from a score of 43% through to 73%. The average (mean) pitch score was 61% (“Average”).
- **Rugby Union Pitches** rated varied from a score of 75% through to 82%. The average score was 78% (“Good”).
- **Hockey pitches (Synthetic Turf Pitches)** were not rated in the same way. However, the only identified facilities used for Hockey (and other training for other sports) were visited and comments made regarding general condition, size, floodlighting and refurbishment needs. Comments are made within the Hockey assessment section of this report.

2.34 These ratings provide a comprehensive guide to the varying quality across the borough, but need to be treated with caution for the following reasons:

- The inspections were non-technical, based on a visual assessment only
- The inspections were undertaken in the summer months when pitches (winter sports) have been rested and re-seeded, giving a better impression
- The inspections are a snapshot view of provision – scores are recorded based on what is seen on site at one particular visit
- The presence of changing room facilities also boosts the score for a pitch. Although a significant number of the senior football pitches scored were rated as “Good” this was largely due to the existence of changing rooms, which took the scores for many pitches from an average rating to good. The presence of changing rooms adds 15% to a pitch score.

### **Consultation with Schools - Self-ratings of School Facilities**

2.35 Twenty-one schools provided comments about the quality of their pitches. The key findings included:

- 27% of schools rated their pitches as “poor” or “very poor”
- 46% of schools rated their pitches as “average”
- 27% of schools rated their pitches as “good” or “very good”

### **Consultation with Sports Clubs – Ratings of facilities used**

2.36 A consultation exercise was undertaken with all identified sports pitch clubs within the LBH boundary. The initial response rate to the survey was poor and was subsequently boosted through telephone surveys undertaken by Strategic Leisure Limited. 72 clubs responded. The responding clubs rated facilities they used as follows:

- 18 % of respondents rated pitches as “very good”
- 21 % rated pitches “good”
- 37% rated pitches as “average”
- 24 rated pitches as “poor” or “very poor”

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- 2.37 The results show that nearly a quarter of clubs rate facilities used negatively, (“poor” or “very poor”), but overall views on quality were positive.

### Audit of Current Demand

- 2.38 The following numbers of clubs and teams have been identified as playing regular fixtures throughout the relevant season;

**Figure 2.5 – Numbers of Clubs & Teams**

| Sport        | Number of clubs | Number of teams |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Football     | 54              | 231             |
| Cricket      | 24              | 108             |
| Rugby Union  | 6               | 24              |
| Hockey       | 1               | 10              |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>53</b>       | <b>219</b>      |

### Sport by Sport Assessment – Key Findings

- 2.39 The findings of the assessment of playing pitch provision undertaken are considered on a sport-by-sport basis, in relation to Football, Cricket, Rugby Union and Hockey. No Rugby League teams were identified or other key pitch sports (for example, Gaelic Football or Lacrosse).

### Football Assessment

- 2.40 **Numbers of teams.** The study research has identified 54 football clubs generating 231 teams. The number of teams generated by each club varies significantly, from single team clubs to those with in excess of thirty teams. These teams are detailed by the number within each identified “type” of team in Figure 2.6 below.

**Figure 2.6 – Football Teams in Harrow Borough area**

| Team Type                                     | Number of teams |
|---|-----------------|
| Mini Soccer (Under 7 – Under 10)              | 72              |
| Junior Football - Boys (Under 11 – Under 16)  | 73              |
| Junior Football – Girls (Under 11 – Under 16) | 11              |
| Senior Football – Men’s (Over 16)             | 74              |
| Senior Football – Women’s (Over 16)           | 1               |
| <b>TOTAL NUMBER OF TEAMS</b>                  | <b>174</b>      |

- 2.41 **Number of pitches.** The study research has identified 127 football pitches with secured public use, which are included in the assessment calculation.

**Figure 2.7 – Pitches with secured public use in the Harrow Borough area**

| Pitch Type   | Number of pitches |
|--|-------------------|
| Mini Soccer Pitch                                    | 37                |
| Junior Football Pitch                                | 24                |
| Senior Football Pitch                                | 66                |
| <b>TOTAL NUMBER OF PITCHES IN SECURED PUBLIC USE</b> | <b>127</b>        |

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### Key Assessment Findings: Borough Wide

2.42 The assessment of football Borough wide has revealed a number of key findings relating to supply and demand. These are reported below.

- **Pitch Ownership** – The audit has identified that LBH is the main provider of football pitches (73% of all football pitches). Other pitches are indirectly provided by the Council through long term leasing to clubs (these pitches have been categorised as Private/Voluntary managed), private sites and through various schools.
- **Temporal Demand for Games.** The assessment reveals that there are approximately 116 matches per week and that most games are played on a Sunday (85% of all games). Sunday is the peak time for Junior Football (100% of demand) and for Senior Football (55% of demand). The peak time for Mini Soccer is on a Sunday (100% of demand).
- **Mini Football** - The quantitative assessment has revealed that there is a sufficient supply to meet current demand of **mini soccer pitches** to meet peak demand on a Sunday.
- **Junior Football** – The quantitative assessment has revealed that there is a **significant deficiency of -18 junior football pitch** provision to meet peak demand on a Sunday.
- **Senior Football** – The quantitative assessment has revealed that there is a small theoretical **surplus of +46 senior pitches** to meet peak demand in senior football on a Sunday. The surplus in senior pitch provision, if re-designated as junior and mini pitches is sufficient to meet the identified deficiencies.
- **Latent Demand** – The sports club questionnaire asked for clubs to raise issues about unmet demand. Although there is no clear indication of the number of potential teams who would play if there were more facilities, a number of clubs and teams currently have to access pitches outside of the borough or their local area for their home games. Where identified, these teams have been included within the demand audit of the assessment.
- **Future Demand** – Future demand for playing pitches is difficult to ascertain as there are many factors, which can contribute to a change in the demand for playing pitches, including the success of local teams, sports development initiatives and the quality/accessibility of local facilities and nature/scope of local leagues. Team Generation rates (TGR's) can be used as a guide, as can the consultation findings.
- **Team Generation rates** are based on the number of teams identified earlier in Figure 2.6.

## SECTION II – HARROW BOROUGH ASSESSMENT: PLAYING PITCHES

**Figure 2.8 – Team Generation Rates for Football in Harrow Borough**

| Football Team Type     | Age- Group Population | Current Population | Current number of teams | Current Team Generation Rate |
|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Mini-Soccer (U7-U10)   | 6-9 year olds         | 10,317             | 72                      | 1:143                        |
| Junior Football: Boys  | 10-15 year olds       | 8,672              | 73                      | 1:119                        |
| Junior Football: Girls | 10-15 year olds       | 7,913              | 11                      | 1:719                        |
| Senior Football: Men   | 16-45 year olds       | 44,448             | 74                      | 1:601                        |
| Senior Football: Women | 16-45 year olds       | 46,188             | 1                       | 1:46,188                     |

Population figures are estimated based on published figures.

2.43 No up to date published TGR's are currently available for comparison. Consultation with key neighbouring authorities revealed that although there were a number of Playing Pitch Assessments completed, few had published TGR's. However, based on recent studies undertaken by Strategic Leisure Limited observations about generation rates in Harrow Borough can be made. These include:

- A high number of mini and junior teams
- Low generation rates for Girls and Women's teams, in line with other areas of the country.

2.44 **Future population projections** available are based on recent projections published by the Greater London Authority. These have been used to identify likely increases in the number of teams demanding pitches in future years. Figure 2.9 identifies possible increases in demand as a result of projected population growth utilising current population as the baseline figure.

**Figure 2.9 – Future Demand**

| Football Team Type | Current Population | 2011 Population | Number of Additional Teams | 2021 Population | Number of Additional teams |
|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Mini Soccer        | 10,317             | 12,990          | +16                        | 14491           | +24                        |
| Junior Boys        | 8672               | 6262            | -20                        | 7049            | -14                        |
| Junior Girls       | 7913               | 5889            | -3                         | 6644            | -2                         |
| Senior Men         | 44448              | 50853           | +11                        | 57,833          | +22                        |
| Senior Women       | 46198              | 51876           | +/-0                       | 53337           | +/-0                       |

2.45 Based on the population increases above, and on the assumption that current TGR's remain static, there will be additional demand for mini pitches less demand for junior pitches but an increase in demand for senior pitches for men.

2.46 **Consultation** undertaken with football clubs needs to be considered as many identify changes to their membership, which will impact on supply and demand for pitches. The key findings revealed that:

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- 24% of football clubs expected their membership to rise in the coming years. Estimates based on numbers provided by the clubs would suggest that this increase may equate to in excess of 19 mini and junior teams.
- 27% of clubs expected their membership to remain static. No clubs expected a decline in their membership numbers.
- 63% of the football clubs responding to the survey rated the facilities they use as “average”, “poor” or “very poor”
- Common key issues raised by clubs relate to poor grounds maintenance, poor quality changing facilities, and a lack of appropriate match and training facilities.
- Consultation with local league representatives reveal that membership trends mirror those evident nationally. League representatives report that adult leagues are at best static in terms of numbers of teams, and in some cases have experienced a recent decline. Junior and mini football leagues are generally experiencing growth.
- The Council needs to be aware that Belmont United are currently trying to negotiate a 25 year lease with LB Camden for the continued use of the William Ellis Playing Fields. Refurbishment priorities would be changing facilities and ensuring that the facilities remain as playing pitches.
- There are issues of drainage at Headstone Manor and Broadfields. When the floodgates are shut on the River Pinn flooding occurs.
- St Josephs require changing facilities and floodlighting at Whit

2.47 **Impact of Quality on capacity.** It is important to assess the impact of quality of pitches on capacity. If pitches are particularly poor then they may not be able to accommodate the number of games required to meet demand. This could increase any deficiency recorded or reduce surpluses. The results of the quality inspections can be used to show how quality might affect capacity. Figure 2.11 identifies assumptions that could be made on capacity.

**Figure 2.11 – Theoretical Carrying Capacity**

| Rating of Pitch  | Carrying Capacity       | Multiplication Factor |
|------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Excellent / Good | Three matches per week  | 1.5                   |
| Average          | Two matches per week    | 1.0                   |
| Below average    | One match per week      | 0.5                   |
| Poor             | One match per fortnight | 0.25                  |

2.48 Using the results of the non-technical visual assessments, the following analysis can be used to determine the impact of quality on pitch supply.

**Figure 2.12 – Football Pitches – Quality and carrying capacity**

| Rating of Pitch      | No. of pitches | Quality Factor | Score / No. of pitches |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------------|
| Excellent / Good     | 35             | 1.5            | 52.5                   |
| Average              | 31             | 1.0            | 31                     |
| Below average        | 4              | 0.5            | 2                      |
| Poor                 | 0              | 0.25           | 0                      |
| <b>TOTAL PITCHES</b> | <b>70</b>      |                | <b>85.5</b>            |

2.49 **Impact of quality** – The analysis in the above figures identifies that when quality of pitches is taken into account the following findings are apparent:

## **SECTION II – HARROW BOROUGH ASSESSMENT: PLAYING PITCHES**

- The quality ratings for football pitches in theory impacts positively on the theoretical capacity of provision. When quality is factored into the supply, the current pitch supply is increased slightly, on the basis that a number of pitches can in theory accommodate three games a week. (The assessment calculation works on an assumption of two games per week).
- The audit also revealed that the majority of pitches used by local clubs are served by changing rooms. The best changing rooms are at Bannisters with others changing rooms being described by clubs as poor in need of refurbishment or frequently vandalised.

2.50 **Planned pitch developments** – A number of clubs consulted expressed an aspiration to improve the facilities they access. However, few planned or proposed pitch improvement projects have been identified through the course of the study. Only one project has been identified. This project is the Prince Edward Playing Field Development that was originally to offer the following sports facilities:

- 3000 capacity community stadium
- Full size floodlit artificial turf pitch
- 13 adult/junior grass pitches
- State of the art changing facilities and parking
- Associated changing and parking facilities

2.51 This development will have the potential to increase capacity by:

- 13 senior pitches enabling an additional 26 weekly games, or
- 13 junior pitches enabling an additional 26 weekly games.

2.52 In relation to the current assessment results, the new planned new facilities will add to the surplus of senior pitches already identified but enable a reduction in the reported deficiencies of junior pitches.

2.53 **Pitches with no community use.** The audit has revealed a total of 41 football pitches (9 senior, 20 junior and 12 mini pitches) across the borough that do not currently accommodate community use. If these pitches were brought into play then:

- The surplus in senior pitches would in theory increase to +55 pitches
- The deficiency in junior football pitches would in theory be reduced to -2 pitches
- The surplus in mini soccer pitches would be +12 pitches

2.54 The figures above needs to be treated with caution, and are only “theoretical”. In most cases pitches and ancillary facilities will not be of a required standard to accommodate community use. School sites, which make up the majority of those pitches identified, are heavily used for school sport and PE and do not have required changing accommodation.

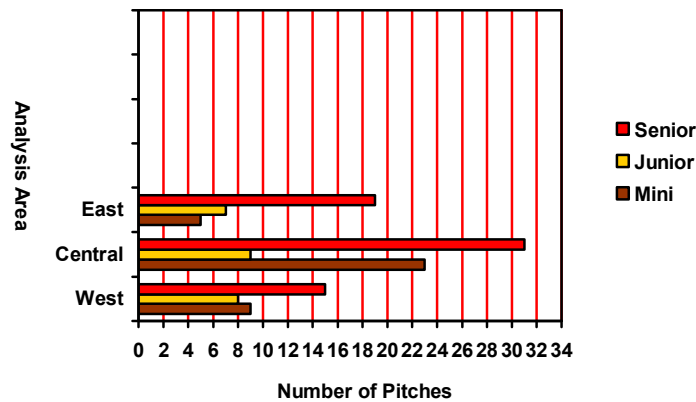
## SECTION II – HARROW BOROUGH ASSESSMENT: PLAYING PITCHES

### Key Assessment Findings: Analysis By Areas

2.55 **Football – Area Analysis.** An assessment of football supply and demand has also been undertaken on an area basis using the 3 areas shown in the Maps Central, East and West. This assessment highlights variances in quantity and quality.

2.56 Distribution of pitches varies across the borough, as illustrated in Figure 2.13 below:

Figure 2.13 – Quantity of football pitches by Area (Community Use pitches only)



2.57 **Area Analysis: Quantity.** Figure 2.14 shows that some areas of the borough have greater pitch supply than others. The Central area has more senior, junior and mini pitches than East and West. East has more senior pitches than the West area and the West area has more junior and mini pitches than the East area. The assessment modelling applied on a local level has identified the following findings:

Figure 2.14 – Surplus / Deficiency in Pitch Provision – Area Analysis

| Pitch           | Borough Wide | Central Area | East Area | West Area |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|
| Mini Soccer     | +/-0         | +7           | -8        | +1        |
| Junior Football | -18          | -11          | -7        | +/-0      |
| Senior Football | +46          | +23          | +12       | +7        |

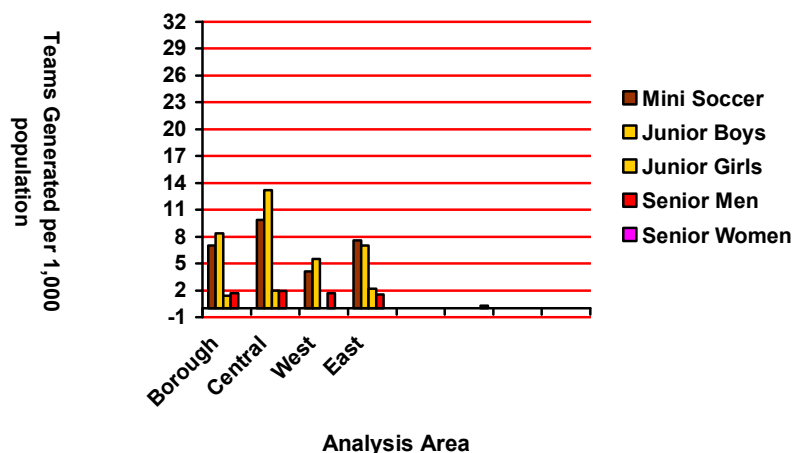
2.58 The area analysis identifies deficiencies in pitch provision across a number of the analysis areas. There is a deficiency of 8 mini and 7 junior pitches in the East area and a deficiency of 11 junior pitches in the Central area. If surpluses in senior pitches were re-designated as junior in the Central area and senior pitches were designated as Mini and Junior in the East area, supply would still not be sufficient in the East area.

2.59 **Team Generation Rates** have also been calculated on an area basis. Some assumptions have been made in relation to age-group breakdowns. Detailed calculations are contained in the report appendices. TGR's can provide a useful tool

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to indicate demand “hotspots” and areas of the borough where sports participation is higher or lower than the borough average. The figures should be treated with caution given that some clubs and teams attract players from a wider catchment.

Figure 2.15 – Team Generation Rates by Area



- 2.60 Figure 2.15 shows the different levels of team generation across the borough, and comparison against the borough wide figures. Notable variances include the significant levels of junior boy’s team and mini soccer teams across all areas and that the senior team generation rate is fairly static across all three areas slightly lower in the East area.

### Football Assessment - Summary

#### Boroughwide Findings

- 2.61 **Summary of key findings for football** - Based on the borough wide assessment undertaken the following key issues relate to football supply and demand in LBH:
- There are significant quantitative deficiencies in junior football pitch provision, which can be rectified through re-designation of current surpluses in senior provision. Mini pitch provision is also only just adequate to cope with demand.
  - Deficiencies in mini and junior football pitch provision are significant in the East area and Central area has a deficiency of junior pitches.
  - Clubs anticipate an increase in the number of players over the next few years. This needs to be considered alongside current TGR’s and future population projections which suggest that the mini and senior number of teams will increase and junior boys and girls teams will decline.
  - Pitch quality is generally perceived to be “Average” – “Good”. This is reflected in both the scores from the quality assessments and the ratings placed on facilities by clubs.

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- Ancillary facilities on the whole are of an average standard and there is significant scope for improvement. However, a high percentage of pitches are served by some form of changing facilities.
- There are a number of “spare” pitches (those currently not used by the community) that can potentially be brought into play, although it needs to be acknowledged that these pitches often have an alternative primary purpose (in the case of school pitches, Physical Education and school sport).
- Team Generation rates vary across the borough. There are several demand “hotspots”, notably in Central Area in relation to mini and junior football.

### Cricket Assessment

2.62 **Numbers of teams.** The study research has identified **24** clubs playing cricket on a regular basis and a number of clubs playing ad hoc fixtures. These clubs generate **108 teams**. These teams are detailed by the number within each identified “type” of team in Figure 2.16 below.

**Figure 2.16 – Cricket Teams in Harrow Borough area**

| Team Type                                | Number of teams |
|--|-----------------|
| Junior Boys Cricket (11-17 year olds)    | 47              |
| Junior Girls Cricket (11-17 year olds)   | 1               |
| Senior Men’s Cricket (18-55 year olds)   | 60              |
| Senior Women’s Cricket (18-55 year olds) | 0               |
| <b>TOTAL NUMBER OF CRICKET TEAMS</b>     | <b>108</b>      |

**Number of pitches.** The study research has identified **24** pitches with secured community use, which are included in the assessment calculation. .

**Figure 2.17 – Pitches with secured public use in the Harrow Borough area**

| Pitch Type                             | Number of Pitches |
|--|-------------------|
| Cricket Pitch*                         | 24                |
| <b>TOTAL NUMBER OF CRICKET PITCHES</b> | <b>24</b>         |

\*No differentiation has been made between Junior and Senior pitches. Unlike football, pitches are not separate designated pitch areas. Junior fixtures make use of the same pitch (often a smaller area on the pitch) as senior teams. Also no differentiation made between size of wickets – each pitch can only accommodate one game at a time.

### Key Assessment Findings: Borough Wide

2.63 The assessment of cricket Borough wide has revealed a number of key findings, which are reported below.

- **Pitch Ownership.** The majority of pitches used by local clubs are managed through the Council (15 pitches). The other pitches are provided on private club sites.
- **Temporal Demand for Games.** The assessment reveals that there are approximately 54 games a week during the season. Of these games, the peak demand for cricket is midweek 42% for junior games and 28% on a Saturday for seniors and 28% on Sunday for Senior and junior games.

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- **Surplus / Deficiencies.** There is a theoretical **surplus** Borough wide of cricket pitch provision to meet peak demand during the week of **+1.5** pitches and on a Sunday of **+7.5 pitches**.
- **Latent Demand.** Clubs were asked to identify issues associated with the ability of facilities to accommodate teams demanding pitches. No issues were raised by clubs through the consultation undertaken. The audit did reveal a number of teams playing cricket on an adhoc basis, generating a demand for a pitch periodically throughout the playing season. This demand must be taken into account, and has been built into the assessment calculations. As such it is prudent to have a surplus of provision to ensure that this type of demand is not stifled.
- **Future demand.** Future demand for playing pitches is difficult to ascertain as there are many factors, which can contribute to a change in the demand for playing pitches, including the success of local teams, sports development initiatives and the quality/accessibility of local facilities and nature/scope of local leagues. For the purposes of the assessment, future demand has been assessed through the use of Team Generation Rates and population projections and through Club Consultation.
- **Team Generation rates** are based on the number of teams identified earlier in Figure 2.16. These figures show how many people within the given population are required to generate a team.

**Figure 2.17 – Team Generation Rates for Cricket in Harrow Borough**

| Cricket Team Type     | Age- Group Population | Current Population | Current number of teams | Current Team Generation Rate |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Junior Boys Cricket   | 11-17 year olds       | 10102              | 47                      | 1:215                        |
| Junior Girls Cricket  | 11-17 year olds       | 9104               | 1                       | 1:9104                       |
| Senior Cricket: Men   | 18-55 year olds       | 54438              | 60                      | 1:907                        |
| Senior Cricket: Women | 18-55 year olds       | 57372              | 0                       | N/A                          |

- 2.64 **Future population projections** available are based on 2001 census population statistics and can be used, together with the calculated TGR's to estimate future demand, and subsequent pitch supply requirements. Population projections and TGR's have been used to identify likely changes to demand over the next 16 years utilising 2001 census data as the baseline population data and GLA population projections for 2011 and 2021.

**Figure 2.18 – Future Population Projections**

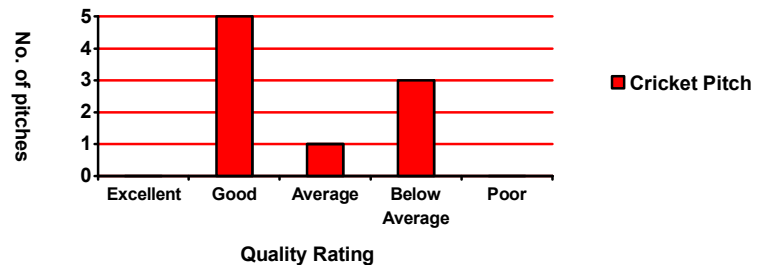
| Cricket Team Type    | Population | 2011 Population | Number of Additional Teams | 2021 Population | Number of Additional teams |
|----------------------|------------|-----------------|----------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Junior Boys Cricket  | 10102      | 13001           | +13                        | 13866           | +17                        |
| Junior Girls Cricket | 9104       | 12250           | n/a                        | 13111           | n/a                        |
| Senior Cricket: Men  | 54438      | 57851           | +4                         | 43343           | -12                        |

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| Cricket Team Type     | Population | 2011 Population | Number of Additional Teams | 2021 Population | Number of Additional teams |
|-----------------------|------------|-----------------|----------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Senior Cricket: Women | 57372      | 60190           | n/a                        | 46870           | n/a                        |

- 2.65 Based on the population increases above, and on the assumption that current TGR's remain static, there will be an additional demand for 17 pitches in 2011 but only 5 pitches in 2021. Projections indicate a reduction in the adult cricket playing population by 2021.
- 2.66 **Consultation** undertaken with cricket clubs needs to be considered, specifically in relation to their estimations about membership growth. Consultation findings were limited but of the 11 clubs providing an indication about future growth/decline, all predicted an increase in membership.
- 2.67 **Pitch Quality & Ancillary Facilities** A number of key findings have emerged with regard to the quality of cricket provision. Visual Inspections and key ratings of 9 pitches with community use have been undertaken. The key findings are shown in Figure 2.19 below:

Figure 2.19 – Summary of Quantity and Quality



- 2.68 **Impact of Quality on capacity.** It is important to assess the impact of quality of pitches on capacity. If pitches are particularly poor then they may not be able to accommodate the number of games required to meet demand. If pitches are of a high standard then they may be able to accommodate more matches. By factoring quality into the assessment, a truer picture of the adequacy of pitch provision can be gained. The results of the quality inspections can be used to show how quality might affect capacity on the basis of the assumptions detailed in Figure 2.20:

Figure 2.20 – Carrying Capacity

| Rating of Pitch  | Carrying Capacity       | Multiplication Factor |
|------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Excellent / Good | Three matches per week  | 1.5                   |
| Average          | Two matches per week    | 1.0                   |
| Below average    | One match per week      | 0.5                   |
| Poor             | One match per fortnight | 0.25                  |

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- 2.69 In the case of cricket, 12 pitches in use were rated". By using the results of the quality audit and above multiplication factors, the following assessment on carrying capacity for Cricket is shown below:

**Figure 2.21 Cricket Pitches – Quality and carrying capacity**

| Rating of Pitch      | No. of pitches | Quality Factor | Capacity. of pitches |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Excellent / Good     | 5              | 1.5            | 7.5                  |
| Average              | 1              | 1.0            | 1                    |
| Below average        | 3              | 0.5            | 1.5                  |
| Poor                 | 0              | 0.25           | 0                    |
| <b>TOTAL PITCHES</b> | <b>8</b>       |                | <b>10</b>            |

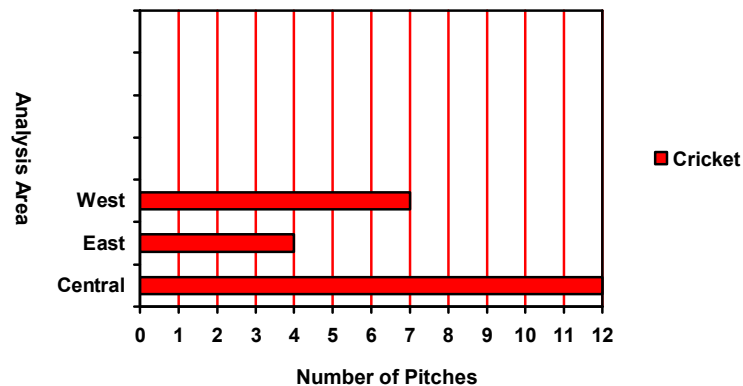
- 2.70 The above analysis provides an indication of the impact of quality on the results of the quantitative assessment. When factoring in assumptions on quality and the impact on carrying capacity of pitches, the analysis shows that given the generally high quality of pitches, although there are only 8 pitches assessed this can be deemed to be the equivalent of 10. This would appear to re-emphasise the quantitative assessment results which indicate that there is sufficient pitch provision.
- 2.71 **Planned Pitch Developments** – There are no known pitch developments planned for cricket, which will increase the current capacity. Old Lyonians state they are looking for a new ground.
- 2.72 **Pitches with no community use.** A total of 5 pitches within the borough have been identified which do not currently have secured community use. All of these are located on school sites. As with football pitches identified, there are quality issues relating to the pitches and availability of changing provision. In the case of Wicor Recreation Ground, there has been provision for 2 pitches in recent years. However, demand during the 2004 season was met through one pitch at this site.

### Key Assessment Findings: Local Area Analysis

- 2.73 **Cricket – Area Analysis.** An assessment of cricket supply and demand has also been undertaken on an area basis using the 3 areas Central, East and West. The assessment has identified a number of key findings in relation to quantity and quality.
- 2.74 Distribution of pitches varies across the borough, as illustrated in the graph overleaf:

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Figure 2.22 – Quantity of cricket pitches by Area (Community Use pitches only)



- 2.75 **Area Analysis: Quantity.** Figure 2.22 shows that some areas of the borough have a greater number of pitches than others, with provision ranging from 4 pitches in the East area, 7 in the West area and 12 in the Central area. Population and local demand need to be considered to assess whether provision is adequate to meet local needs. The assessment modelling applied on a local level has identified the following findings for each of the local areas:

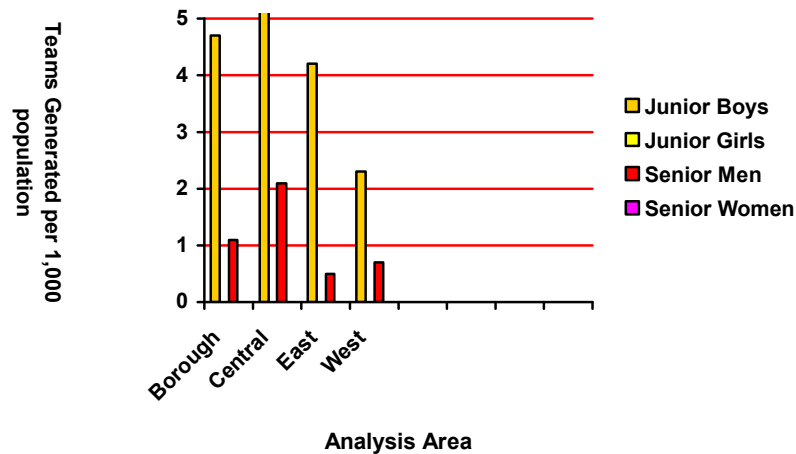
Figure 2.23 – Surplus / Deficiency in Pitch Provision – Area Analysis

| Pitch         | Borough Wide | Central Area | East Area | West Area |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|
| Cricket Pitch | +1.5         | +/-0         | -2.5      | +3        |

- 2.76 The area analysis identifies some theoretical area deficiencies, despite a surplus in pitch provision across the whole of the borough. The assessment has identified deficiencies in provision in the East Area. Provision is only just adequate in the Central area to meet current demand. Small surplus of 3 pitches in the West area.
- 2.77 The clubs identify that the quality of ancillary facilities serving cricket pitches is generally average at best. Over half of the sites are served by facilities which have been rated as “average” or below. The main issues identified relate to a lack of changing facilities or shower facilities and poor grounds maintenance.
- 2.78 **Team Generation Rates** have also been calculated on an area basis. Some assumptions have been made in relation to age-group breakdowns. Detailed calculations are contained within the report appendices.

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Figure 2.24 – Team Generation Rates by Area



2.79 Figure 2.24 shows the different levels of team generation across the borough, and comparison against the borough wide figures. Team generation is generally low across the borough. The Central area generates more junior and senior teams than East and West areas.

### Cricket Assessment – Summary of Findings

#### Boroughwide

2.80 **Summary of key findings for cricket** – The key issues relating to supply and demand of cricket can be summarised as:

- Current demand is met by the available pitch supply. Demand is split throughout the week.
- Quality is generally good with most pitches rated above average. However, the majority of pitches are on public open space sites and could be susceptible to vandalism and unofficial use which can impact negatively on quality. No such problems were noted at the times of the pitch audits (off season for cricket).
- The quality ratings for ancillary facilities were lower than those recorded for pitches. Over half of the sites rated had average or below average ancillary facilities.
- Future growth is not estimated to be significant based on the use of TGR's, population projections and consultation findings. In fact population projections indicate a decline in the cricket playing population over the next 16 years.
- Most of the pitches identified for use are managed by LBH.

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### Rugby Union Assessment

- 2.81 **Numbers of clubs and teams.** The study research has identified **6 clubs** based in the borough generating **24 teams**. The teams are detailed by the number within each identified “type” of team in Figure 2.25 below.

**Figure 2.25 – Rugby Union Teams in the Harrow Borough area**

| Team Type                                | Number of Teams |
|--|-----------------|
| Mini Rugby Mixed (8-12 year olds)        | 6               |
| Junior Ruby - Boys (13-17 year olds)     | 5               |
| Junior Rugby - Girls (16-17 year olds)   | 0               |
| Senior Rugby - Men (18-45 year olds)     | 13              |
| Senior Rugby - Women (18-45 year olds)   | 0               |
| <b>TOTAL NUMBER OF RUGBY UNION TEAMS</b> | <b>24</b>       |

- 2.82 **Number of pitches.** The study research has identified **4** pitches available for community use, which are included in the assessment calculation.

**Figure 2.26 – Pitches with secured public use in the Harrow Borough area**

| Pitch Type   | Number of pitches |
|--|-------------------|
| Rugby Union (Full-size)                              | 12                |
| <b>TOTAL NUMBER OF PITCHES IN SECURED PUBLIC USE</b> | <b>12</b>         |

### Key Assessment Findings: Borough Wide

- 2.83 The assessment and analysis of supply and demand has revealed the following key findings which are reported below.
- **Pitch Ownership.** 7 Rugby pitches are provided and maintained by Harrow BC. 5 other pitchers are available on private sites.
  - **Temporal Demand for Games.** The assessment reveals that peak demand for pitch use is on a Saturday with all senior fixtures on this day.
  - **Identified Surplus / Deficiencies.** The results show that there is theoretically sufficient pitch provision to meet current demand at its peak. There is a surplus Borough wide of **+5.5** pitches. Although there is an overall Borough wide surplus there is a deficit on Sunday's of **-0.5** in the West area.
  - **Latent Demand.** Consultation with the local club reveals that there are no teams denied of the opportunity to play matches due to a lack of pitches. The small surplus in pitches is sufficient to accommodate additional growth.
  - **Future Demand.** Future demand for playing pitches is difficult to ascertain as there are many factors, which can contribute to a change in the demand for playing pitches, including the success of local teams, sports development initiatives and the quality/accessibility of local facilities and nature/scope of local leagues. For the purposes of the assessment, future demand has been assessed through the use of Team Generation Rates and population projections and through Club Consultation.

## SECTION II – HARROW BOROUGH ASSESSMENT: PLAYING PITCHES

Figure 2.27 – Team Generation Rates for Rugby Union in Harrow Borough

| Rugby Team Type      | Age- Group Population | Current Population | Current number of teams | Current Team Generation Rate |
|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Mini-Rugby – Mixed   | 8-12 year olds        | 13490              | 6                       | 1:2248                       |
| Junior Rugby - Boys  | 13-17 year olds       | 7208               | 5                       | 1:1442                       |
| Junior Rugby - Girls | 16-17 year olds       | 0                  | 0                       | n/a                          |
| Senior Rugby - Men   | 18-45 year olds       | 41572              | 13                      | 1:3198                       |
| Senior Rugby - Women | 18-45 year olds       | 43676              | 0                       | n/a                          |

- 2.84 Based on the current TGR's and future population projections, an estimate of future demand can be made. The estimated demand for 2011 and 2021 are illustrated below.

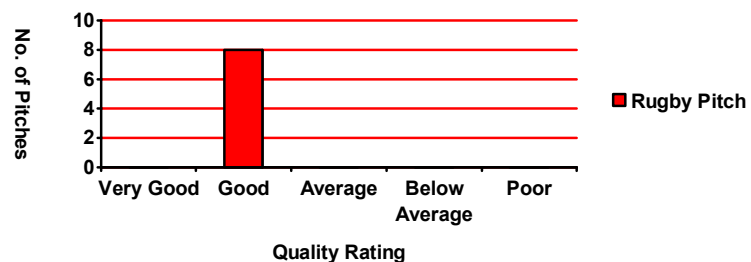
Figure 2.28 – Future Population Projections

| Rugby Team Type | Population | 2011 Population | Number of Additional Teams | 2021 Population | Number of Additional teams |
|-----------------|------------|-----------------|----------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Mini-Rugby      | 13490      | 12151           | -0.6                       | 13693           | +/-0                       |
| Junior Boys     | 7208       | 6739            | -0.3                       | 6817            | -0.27                      |
| Junior Girls    | 0          | 0               | n/a                        | 0               | n/a                        |
| Senior Men      | 41572      | 44114           | +0.79                      | 43343           | +0.55                      |
| Senior Women    | 43676      | 0               | n/a                        | n/a             | n/a                        |

\*rounded up to next whole number

- 2.85 Based on population projections and the assumption that TGR's will remain static, there is not likely to be any increased demand for pitches over the next 16 years.
- 2.86 **Pitch Quality & Ancillary Facilities** A number of key findings have emerged with regard to the quality of rugby provision. Visual Inspections and key ratings at 3 sites, 8 pitches with community use have been undertaken. All pitches were rated as "good".

Figure 2.29 - Summary of Quality and Quantity – Rugby Union Pitches



## SECTION II – HARROW BOROUGH ASSESSMENT: PLAYING PITCHES

- 2.87 **Impact of Quality on capacity.** It is important to assess the impact of quality of pitches on capacity. If pitches are particularly poor then they may not be able to accommodate the number of games required to meet demand. This could increase any deficiency recorded or reduce surpluses. The results of the quality inspections can be used to show how quality might affect capacity. Figure 2.30 identifies assumptions that could be made on capacity.

**Figure 2.30 – Carrying Capacity**

| Rating of Pitch  | Carrying Capacity       | Multiplication Factor |
|------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Excellent / Good | Three matches per week  | 1.5                   |
| Average          | Two matches per week    | 1.0                   |
| Below average    | One match per week      | 0.5                   |
| Poor             | One match per fortnight | 0.25                  |

- 2.88 In the case of rugby, all 8 pitches in use were rated as “Good”. By using the results of the quality audit and above multiplication factors, the following assessment on carrying capacity for Rugby is shown below:

**Figure 2.31 - Rugby Pitches – Quality and carrying capacity**

| Rating of Pitch      | No. of pitches | Quality Factor | Score / No. of pitches |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------------|
| Excellent / Good     | 8              | 1.5            | 12                     |
| Average              | 0              | 1.0            | 0                      |
| Below average        | 0              | 0.5            | 0                      |
| Poor                 | 0              | 0.25           | 0                      |
| <b>TOTAL PITCHES</b> | <b>8</b>       |                | <b>12</b>              |

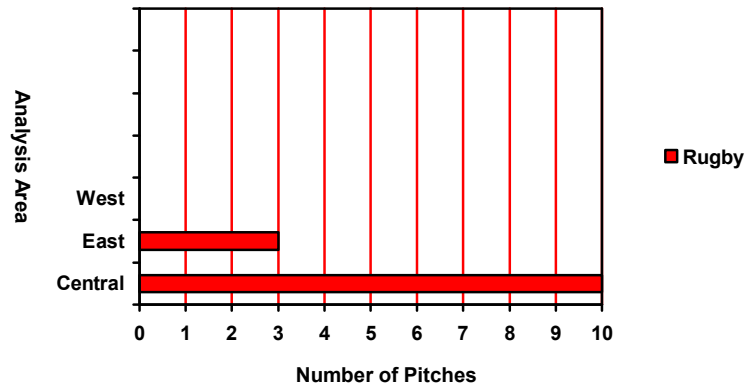
- 2.89 On this basis if it is assumed that all pitches can be used for three matches per week, the carrying capacity of rugby pitches is likely to be the equivalent of 12 pitches. This, in theory, increases the capacity of available supply.
- 2.90 **Planned Pitch developments** – The assessment has not revealed any known rugby union pitch developments.
- 2.91 **Pitches with no community use.** The assessment has revealed that there are 2 additional rugby union pitches, which are not currently available to the community. These are all located on school sites. If these pitches were to be brought into play, then there would be an increase in the theoretical surplus of pitch provision.

### Key Assessment Findings: Local Area Analysis

- 2.92 **Rugby – Area Analysis.** An assessment of rugby supply and demand has also been undertaken on an area basis using the 3 areas Central, East and West.
- 2.93 The distribution of pitches across the borough is shown in Figure 2.32 below. Only 13 pitches with community use have been identified.

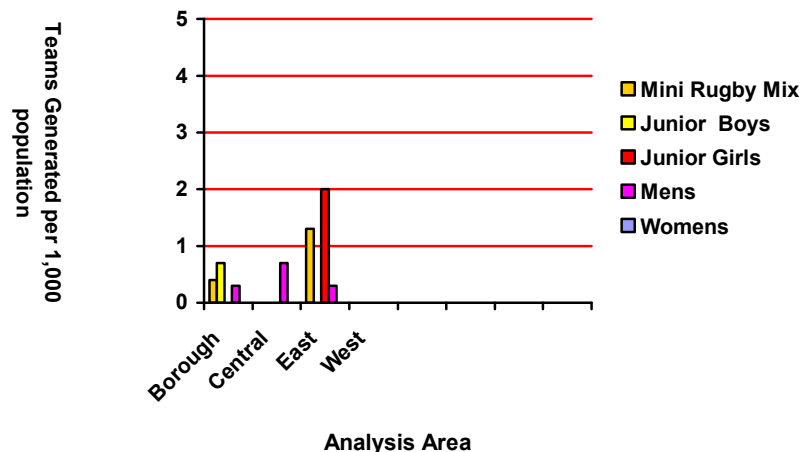
## SECTION II – HARROW BOROUGH ASSESSMENT: PLAYING PITCHES

Figure 2.32 – Quantity of rugby pitches by Area (Community Use pitches only)



- 2.94 **Area Analysis: Quantity.** Figure 2.32 shows that there are community accessible pitches within 2 of the analysis areas. The West area has no community use Rugby Pitches.
- 2.95 **Area Analysis: Quality.** The quality ratings for all pitches in the Central and East area are good.
- 2.96 **Area Analysis: Ancillary / Changing Room facilities.** The ratings for pitch ancillary and changing facilities are good.
- 2.97 **Team Generation Rates** have also been calculated on an area basis. Some assumptions have been made in relation to age-group breakdowns. Detailed calculations are contained within the report appendices.

Figure 2.33 – Team Generation Rates by Area



## SECTION II – HARROW BOROUGH ASSESSMENT: PLAYING PITCHES

2.98 Figure 2.33 shows the different levels of team generation across the borough, and comparison against the borough wide figures. Team generation is generally low across the borough. The Central area generates more junior and senior teams than East the East area and the West area has no rugby teams.

### Rugby Assessment – Summary of Findings

#### Boroughwide Assessment

2.99 **Key findings for Rugby Union** – The assessment has identified a number of key issues relating to the demand for and supply of rugby union pitches. These are:

- Current and future demand is adequately serviced by the current pitch supply. There is scope for some growth to be accommodated.
- The quality of pitches is good.
- The quality of ancillary facilities is good.

#### Hockey Assessment: Borough Wide Results

2.100 **Numbers of clubs and teams.** The study research has identified **1 club** (Harrow Hockey Club) generating **10 teams**. These teams are detailed by the number within each identified “type” of team in Figure 2.34.

Figure 2.34 – Hockey Teams in the Harrow Borough area

| Team Type                               | Number of Teams |
|---|-----------------|
| Junior Hockey – Boys (11-16 year olds)  | 4               |
| Junior Hockey – Girls (11-16 year olds) | 0               |
| Senior Hockey – Men (16-45 year olds)   | 3               |
| Senior Hockey – women (16-45 year olds) | 3               |
| <b>TOTAL NUMBER OF HOCKEY TEAMS</b>     | <b>10</b>       |

2.101 **Number of pitches.** The study research has identified 1 full size Artificial Turf pitches used for fixtures, which is included in the assessment calculation. This pitch is located at Broadfields Country Club.

Figure 2.35 – Pitches with secured public use in the Harrow Borough area

| Pitch Type   | Number of pitches |
|--|-------------------|
| Synthetic Turf Pitches (Full Size)                   | 1                 |
| <b>TOTAL NUMBER OF PITCHES IN SECURED PUBLIC USE</b> | <b>1</b>          |

#### Key Assessment Findings: Borough Wide

2.102 The assessment of hockey borough wide has identified a number of key findings which are reported below.

- **Pitch Ownership.** The pitch used is not in the ownership of Harrow BC. The pitch is located at Broadfields Country Club a private facility.

## SECTION II – HARROW BOROUGH ASSESSMENT: PLAYING PITCHES

- **Temporal demand for games.** The assessment reveals that there are approximately 5 games per week during the season. Of these games, the peak demand for hockey is on a Saturday with 60% of games played at this time. The other games are played on Sundays.
- **Surplus/deficiencies.** There is a theoretical surplus of STP provision to meet peak demand for hockey (equivalent to 3 match slots). This surplus is based on the assumption that the STP's is accessible for hockey at the required times. The surplus relates to a borough wide availability of 3 match slots on a given weekend day, on the basis of there being 3 match slots at peak time (1 pitches x 3 slots = 3 games capacity). Consideration needs to be given to the other potential usage of STP's during the week particularly for football training. There is a surplus of one match slot on Sundays only.
- **Latent Demand.** Clubs were asked to identify issues associated with the ability of facilities to accommodate teams demanding pitches. No issues were raised by the Harrow Hockey Club specifically relating to facilities preventing known teams from playing.
- **Future Demand.** Future demand for playing pitches is difficult to ascertain as there are many factors, which can contribute to a change in demand, such as the success of sports development programmes. Harrow Hockey Club was consulted about likely increases in club membership and team numbers. The club anticipate increases in the region of 5 players over the next few years.
- **Team Generation Rates.** These are based on the number of teams identified earlier in figure 2.34. These figures show how many people within the given population are required to generate a team.

**Figure 2.36 – Team Generation Rates for Hockey in the Harrow Borough**

| Hockey Team Type     | Age- Group Population | Current Population | Current number of teams | Current Team Generation Rate |
|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Junior Hockey: Boys  | 11-15 year olds       | 7225               | 4                       | 1:1806                       |
| Junior Hockey: Girls | 11-15 year olds       | 6582               | 0                       | N/A                          |
| Senior Hockey: Men   | 16-45 year olds       | 44448              | 3                       | 1:14816                      |
| Senior Hockey: Women | 16-45 year olds       | 46198              | 3                       | 1:15399                      |

Population figures are estimated based on published figures.

- 2.103 Based on the current TGR's and future population projections, an estimate of future demand can be made. The estimated demand for 2011 and 2021 are illustrated overleaf.

## SECTION II – HARROW BOROUGH ASSESSMENT: PLAYING PITCHES

Figure 2.37 – Population Projections

| Hockey Team Type    | Population | 2011 Population | Number of Additional Teams | 2021 Population | Number of Additional teams |
|---------------------|------------|-----------------|----------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Junior Boys Hockey  | 3,742      | 6262            | +1.4                       | 7049            | +1.8                       |
| Junior Girls Hockey | 3,415      | 5889            | N/A                        | 6644            | N/A                        |
| Senior Men Hockey   | 20,764     | 50853           | +2                         | 57833           | +2.5                       |
| Senior Women Hockey | 20,674     | 51876           | +2                         | 53337           | +2.1                       |

Team numbers rounded to next complete figure

- 2.104 Based on the population increases above, and on the assumption that current TGR's remain static, there will be additional demand for pitches. Consultation with the Hockey Club did not reveal a significant increase expected in membership.
- 2.105 **Pitch Quality & Ancillary Facilities.** Visual Inspections and key ratings have not been applied to Synthetic Pitches in the same way as natural turf pitches for other sports. No teams playing league hockey were identified as using grass pitches.
- 2.106 **Impact of Quality on capacity.** It is important to assess the impact of quality of pitches on capacity. If pitches are particularly poor then they may not be able to accommodate the number of games required to meet demand, or the standard of league hockey played. In the case of hockey, supply was found to be more than adequate to meet current demand, however the following needs to be considered:
- The quality of pitches impacts upon the standard of league hockey that can be accommodated
  - Additionally lighting levels can have an impact. As well as implications for match play, there are also limiting factors on the use of these facilities for training.
- 2.107 **Planned Pitch developments** – The assessment has revealed plans for an additional full size STP at Prince Edward Playing Fields with floodlights.
- 2.108 **Pitches with no community use.** The assessment has identified no other STP's (full size) in the Borough. However, a number of other non full sized STP facilities within the borough have been identified. These do, or could serve as training facilities for a range of sports. These facilities are detailed in the following section.

### Key Findings: Local Area Analysis

- 2.109 No detailed analysis has been undertaken on a local area basis, given the existence of only one club. The facility used is in the West area
- 2.110 No formal quality ratings have been applied to the STP facility. The hockey club rate the facilities and ancillary facilities at Broadfields Country Club as good.

## **SECTION II – HARROW BOROUGH ASSESSMENT: PLAYING PITCHES**

### **Hockey Assessment – Summary of Findings**

#### **Boroughwide Assessment**

- 2.111 **Key Findings for Hockey** – The assessment has identified a number of key issues relating to the demand for and supply of Hockey facilities. These are:
- Demand is currently met through the available supply, if it assumed that hockey fixtures can be accommodated at the appropriate time (the audit has revealed that pitches are also used as training facilities)
  - One club (Harrow Hockey Club) provides hockey opportunities for the whole borough. Harrow Hockey Club also use training facilities outside the Borough at Brent Cross

#### **Synthetic Pitches – Training Facilities**

- 2.112 The assessment methodology relating to natural turf pitches focuses on demand for facilities to play competitive matches for example, local league fixtures. It is also important to consider the demand for, and supply of facilities for training, and in particularly synthetic turf pitches.
- 2.113 Access to training facilities was a common key issues cited by local clubs. The audit undertaken has revealed only one synthetic turf pitch which is currently used. This is the facility at Broadfields Country Club. There is one other STP which has no community use and no floodlights that is at Orley Farm School (Private).
- 2.114 Additional STP's providing community use are needed. The Prince Edward Playing Field Development will provide 1 additional STP. In addition Harrow Borough has had initial discussions with the school adjacent to Newton Park Playing Fields about possible STP provision on this site.
- 2.115 The audit has also revealed a very limited number of Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGA's) within the Borough. A small number of schools have macadam courts, often with netball markings. Only one site, Glebe First and Middle School in the East area, Harrow High School and Sports College has 4 MUGA's Central area and Tithe Farm Social Club a private facility has a MUGA in the West area that have been identified with community use.
- 2.116 The **Key findings** in relation to Synthetic Pitches and MUGA's are:
- There is a need for more community use STP provision within the borough. However, none of the existing facilities are owned or managed by LBH, which could limit access for development work.
  - Access varies across the facilities identified, with different policies regarding community use, access and pricing
  - Only one facility is full size and of a standard to accommodate league hockey.
  - The pitch at Broadfields Country Club is extensively used – this will have an impact on refurbishment timescales.
  - Access to training facilities was cited as a common issue for clubs, particularly in relation to football.

## **SECTION II – HARROW BOROUGH ASSESSMENT: PLAYING PITCHES**

### **Provision in Neighbouring Authorities**

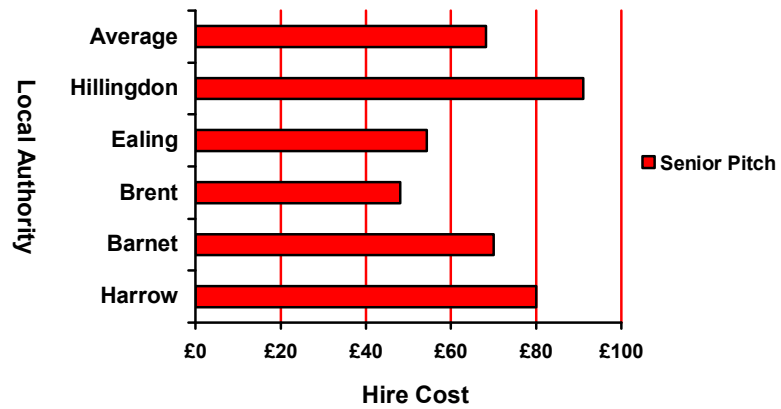
- 2.117 Consultation has been undertaken with representatives from local authorities neighbouring Harrow Borough. This consultation focussed on the identification of any issues arising from known “import and export” of demand, for instance, are there any issues resulting from teams originating from one area playing in another. The consultation also sought to identify any other issues, such as significant deficiencies in pitch provision or the level of fees and charges levied which might result in displaced demand. In some cases teams may travel outside of their “home” area in order to access better quality or cheaper facilities.
- 2.118 The key findings from the consultation include:
- There is general consensus that there is little “import or export” of demand, with most teams playing within the borough from which they originate.
  - The majority of surrounding authorities have already undertaken an assessment of playing pitches, or are in the process of developing a local strategy. In a number of cases, assessments have been based on generic national standards of provision for example, National Playing Fields Association standards.
  - For those authorities with an assessment and strategy in place, there are mixed findings in relation to recorded surpluses and deficiencies.
  - Most surrounding authorities reported deficiencies in the quality of facilities, and the need to ensure that the type of provision provided changes to match changing demand trends, for example, increases in mini and junior football.
- 2.119 On the basis of the consultation undertaken, there does not appear to be any major issues for Harrow Borough as result of pitch quantity and quality in neighbouring authorities.

### **Hire Fees and Charges - Comparison**

- 2.120 In addition to an assessment of quantity and quality it is important to consider other aspects of playing pitch provision. **Access** to facilities can be inhibited by a number of factors. These include the geographical positioning of facilities, location of key housing sites and the impact of public transport. **Cost can also be a critical factor.** The assessment of playing pitch provision in Harrow has included a comparison of hire fees and charges for playing pitches. A comparison, predominantly of football pitch hire charges (many authorities only provide football pitches) has been undertaken to determine how the cost of hire in Harrow performs against that of neighbouring authorities. A comparison of charges has been undertaken with those neighbouring authorities for who pitch hire fees and charges were available. The fees and charges below are for one off games. Ealing grades its pitches A & B and an average for the two prices have been used.
- 2.121 The results of the comparison exercise are shown in the Figures overleaf.

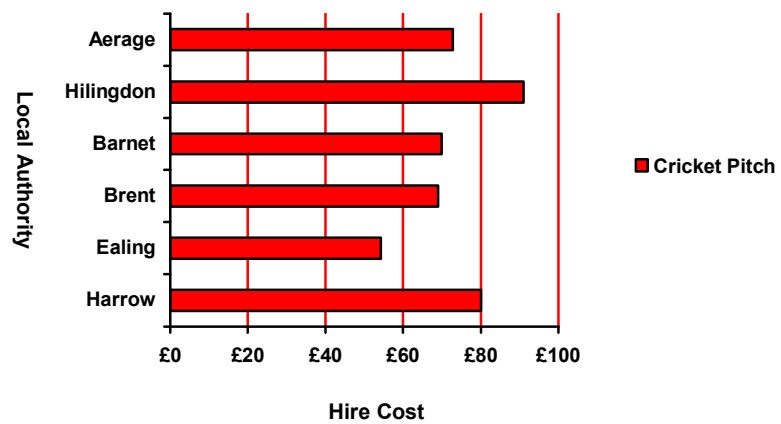
## SECTION II – HARROW BOROUGH ASSESSMENT: PLAYING PITCHES

Figure 2.38 – Comparison of Football pitch hire charges (Local Authority)



*Hire charges are per match*

Figure 2.39 – Comparison of Cricket pitch hire charges (Local Authority)



*Hire charges are per match*

## **SECTION II – HARROW BOROUGH ASSESSMENT: PLAYING PITCHES**

2.122 The following key findings can be drawn from the pricing comparison:

- Of the authorities compared prices for hire (per match) of senior football pitches Harrow BC pitch hire charges are the second highest and above the average in comparison to other neighbouring authorities.
- In relation to cricket, Harrow is still above the average and second highest to Hillingdon.

## **SECTION III – HARROW BOROUGH – NON-PITCH SPORTS FACILITIES**

### **Non-Pitch Sports: Assessment Methodology**

- 3.1 The assessment of demand for, and supply of, Outdoor Bowling Greens, Tennis Courts, and Athletics Tracks falls outside the scope of the assessment methodology detailed in 'Towards a Level Playing Field' (Sport England 2003). A number of factors make these sports difficult to assess, from both a demand and supply perspective. These include:
- **Demand** for these sports manifests itself in a variety of ways. Participation for example, can be on an individual, casual basis or as part of a team playing in a formal competitive match.
  - **Access** to facilities, which can be complex in some cases. For example, membership policies of clubs can vary from full open access, through to nomination based policy. Casual use of facilities can vary from the need to purchase a season ticket through to traditional pay and play access of facilities are staffed.
  - **Supply** of facilities can also vary greatly. The actual size of a bowling green for example, whether it has floodlighting, and the presence of ancillary facilities can greatly affect the capacity of facilities to meet demand.
- 3.2 The assessment of Bowling Greens, and Tennis Courts. Has been undertaken on the basis of:
- An audit of known facilities within the Borough, including site visits to assess quality and access.
  - An assessment of quality has been undertaken using a survey proforma (copy contained in the appendices). The proforma is based on a basic scoring system which records the presence and quality of key features of facilities, including the surface of the green, the size of the facility, and whether the facility is served by floodlights and ancillary provision. All Bowling Greens and tennis courts are scored as a percentage with a potential to score 100%.
  - Consultation with existing Bowls, and Tennis Clubs to determine current membership profiles and the likelihood of growth or decline in the future. Clubs were also asked to rate the quality of facilities used and to identify key facility related issues.
  - A review of the local strategic context to identify current and future priorities for Bowls, and Tennis, including aims and aspirations of Governing Bodies and the potential role of these sports in meeting other social objectives (including increasing levels of physical activity amongst the local population).
  - Stakeholder consultation to identify a range of qualitative opinions, issues and challenges relating to current and future supply and demand.
  - A 'CACI' Analysis has also been undertaken. A CACI analysis identifies the propensity to participate in a number of key sports based on the local socio-economic characteristics of the Borough. In essence it provides a guide to whether particular sports are likely to be more popular in a given area than the base participation rates for the Country as a whole.

## SECTION III – HARROW BOROUGH – NON-PITCH SPORTS FACILITIES

- 3.3 The assessment of athletics facilities has been undertaken using the facility planning guidance contained within the UK Athletics Facilities Strategy (2002-2007) as a framework. This has been supplemented by consultation with the local club.
- 3.4 In undertaking the assessment of non-pitch sports a number of key factors have been considered, including:
- What are the opportunities for potential new participants to take part in the sport?
  - Are there particular access issues for potential new participants, including cost of participation and geographical location of facilities?
  - Are the needs of current participants met by current facilities?

### Tennis Assessment

- 3.5 **Demand - Clubs.** The audit has revealed that there are **14** Tennis Clubs / organisations operating in within Borough. These clubs vary in both membership levels and formality or “constitution”. Details are provided in Figure 3.1 below:

**Figure 3.1 – Tennis Clubs in Harrow Borough**

| Club                         | Details   |
|------------------------------|---|
| Harrow Lawn Tennis Club      | Current members = 300<br>Play league tennis.<br>Membership is open to all.<br>Membership is increasing.   |
| Harrow Baptist Tennis Club   | Current members = 75<br>Play in local league competitions<br>Membership is open to all<br>Membership is decreasing                                  |
| Harrow Town Lawn Tennis Club | Current members = 43<br>Play in local league competitions<br>Membership is open to all<br>Membership is decreasing/increasing/static                |
| Harrow Weald Tennis Club     | Current members = 159<br>Play in local league competitions<br>Membership is open to all<br>Membership is increasing                                 |
| Hatch End Lawn Tennis Club   | Current members =<br>Play in local league competitions<br>Membership is open to all<br>Membership is increasing/decreasing/static                   |
| Headstone Lawn Tennis club   | Current members =<br>No formal teams or participation in league tennis.<br>Membership is open to all.<br>Membership is static/decreasing/increasing |

## SECTION III – HARROW BOROUGH – NON-PITCH SPORTS FACILITIES

| Club                             | Details              |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Kenton Lawn Tennis Club          | No details available |
| Kodak Tennis Club                | No details available |
| North Harrow Tennis Club         | No details available |
| Pinner Lawn Tennis Club          | No details available |
| Trevalyn Lawn Tennis Club        | No details available |
| West End Pinner Lawn Tennis Club | No details available |
| Vagabonds Club                   | No details available |
| Acorn Lawn Tennis Club           | No details available |

3.6 All of the 14 “clubs” identified are ratified by the Lawn Tennis Association.

3.7 **Demand – Individual.** The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) works on the basis of 2% of the population participating in tennis on a regular basis. This figure is used as basis for their facility planning prioritisation on a national and regional level. An assessment of court provision in Harrow has been undertaken using this participation level as a framework, which sets broad standards for outdoor court provision with, and without floodlighting. The results of this are shown in Figure 3.3. These standards are;

- A requirement for 1 outdoor court per 45 players
- A requirement for 1 outdoor floodlit court per 65 players

3.8 **Supply.** The audit of tennis court provision has revealed that there are **121** courts currently available for community use. This figure includes courts which are not available all year, including a number on MUGA’s where tennis is one of a range of sports accommodated. Supply is detailed in Figure 3.2.

**Figure 3.2 – Tennis Courts in Harrow Borough – with Community Use**

| Type of court                                      | No.of courts |
|--|--------------|
| Macadam  | 72           |
| Macadam – with floodlights                         | 6            |
| Artificial Grass                                   | 14           |
| Artificial Grass – with floodlights                | 15           |
| Acrylic  | 12           |
| <b>TOTAL NUMBER OF COMMUNITY USE TENNIS COURTS</b> | <b>121</b>   |

\* Not exclusively used for tennis

## SECTION III – HARROW BOROUGH – NON-PITCH SPORTS FACILITIES

### Key Assessment Findings: Borough Wide

3.9 On the basis of this, the following assessment results are presented:

Figure 3.3 – Tennis Courts: Comparison with LTA standards of provision

| Population | 2% of total Population | Court Requirement | Court Requirement floodlit | Actual no. of courts | Actual no. of courts - floodlit | SURPLUS / DEFICIENCY | SURPLUS / DEFICIENCY – FLOODLIT |
|------------|------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 206,814    | 4,136                  | 92                | 63                         | 121                  | 21                              | +29                  | -42                             |

3.10 Figure 3.3 shows a significant deficiency in outdoor floodlit courts when current supply is compared to the broad national standards of provision.

3.11 **CACI Demand Modelling.** A CACI analysis identifies based on key demographic and socio-economic characteristics, the likely propensity to participate in certain sports and leisure activities. The analysis for Harrow suggests that the propensity to participate in Tennis within the Borough is likely to be higher than the national average. The analysis suggests that 2.1% of the adult population are likely to play tennis on a regular basis.

3.12 **Court Ownership and Management.** The assessment has revealed that LBH is only just the main provider (51%) of all courts identified with community use. Courts are otherwise available through private providers.

3.13 In addition to the arrangements summarised above, other tennis courts are available through schools. Some schools are members of the British Schools Tennis Association, for example, Orley Farm, Harrow School, John Lyon School, Bentley Wood High School, Glebe First and Middle School, Priestmead First and Middle School, Rooks Heath High School, Sacred Heart Language School, Weldon Park Middle School and Heathfield School

3.14 **Future Demand.** Future demand for tennis is difficult to estimate. Based on the population projections and the CACI results, there is likely to be a small increase in demand as population increases. However, as most tennis participation is facilitated via local clubs and organisations (who “manage” court usage), the views of clubs relating to future membership levels need to be considered.

3.15 **Quality.** Quality has been assessed through site visits of local authority tennis facilities. A visual assessment which has considered a number of quality criteria including:

- The condition of nets, posts and fencing
- Condition of the playing surface
- Presence of floodlighting

## SECTION III – HARROW BOROUGH – NON-PITCH SPORTS FACILITIES

- Presence and suitability of ancillary facilities such as a pavilion
- 3.16 A number of the local authority sites were missing nets and in some instances posts. None of the local authority tennis facilities have floodlights or suitable ancillary facilities. The general condition of the surfaces is poor with moss and weed coming through the tarmac surface. The best site was Centenary Park.
- 3.17 The results of the non-technical visual assessment need to be considered alongside user's views. The clubs view of quality of their facilities was "good" but some clubs had ambitions to have improved facilities with floodlights.
- 3.18 **Access.** Access has been assessed through a review of membership policies and fees, mapping the location of courts and through consultation with local clubs. Findings in relation to access are:
- Significant variance in fees and charges for memberships across the borough. Examples include Adult Membership fees ranging from £213 per annum at Pinner Lawn Tennis Club to £55 per annum at Harrow Lawn Tennis Club.
  - The mapping shows that there is an uneven geographical distribution of Private Club courts. There are seven clubs in the Central area, 5 in the West and only 2 clubs in the East Area. The Council tennis court facilities are more evenly distributed with 4 facilities in the Central area (17 Courts), 4 in the East (17 courts) and 5 in the West (17 Courts).
- 3.19 **Planned developments.** The assessment has not identified any planned developments for new tennis court provision. Court re-surfacing was taking place at Queensbury Park, new fencing had recently been erected at Roxeth Recreation Ground and the courts had been reduced from 8 to 5 at Kenton Recreation Ground at the time of the audit. The 3 macadam tennis courts at Chandos Recreation Ground are to be refurbished as part of an agreement with the contractor carrying flood protection drainage in the Park.

### Tennis Summary

- 3.20 **Summary of key findings for Tennis.** A number of key findings have emerged which are summarised as:
- When measured against the LTA standards of provision, there is a deficiency in floodlit tennis court provision.
  - Quality is generally good across private facilities in the borough and poor at the LBH facilities. The main qualitative deficiencies relate to the absence of nets, poor surface lack of pavilion/changing facilities and lack of floodlighting.
  - There is unlikely to be a need for significant additional court provision in the future. However, distribution of courts across the borough is even for Council tennis courts but unevenly distributed for private managed facilities. (see Figure 3.6 and the mapping).
  - The cost of accessing tennis opportunities would appear to vary across the borough, both in terms of club membership.
  - There are no dedicated facilities for mini-tennis at any of the current LBH courts.

## SECTION III – HARROW BOROUGH – NON-PITCH SPORTS FACILITIES

### Bowling Green Assessment

3.21 **Demand – Clubs.** The audit has identified **10** clubs who make use of lawn bowls greens. A list of Bowls Clubs in Figure 3.8 below:

**Figure 3.8 – Bowls Facilities and Clubs in Harrow Borough**

| Club   |
|--|
| Byron Recreation Ground, Peel Road, Wealdstone (Wealdstone Bowling Club)         |
| Centenary Park, Culver Grove, Stanmore (Culver Bowls Club)                       |
| Donnefield Avenue, Canons Park, Edgware. (Lupton Bowling Club)                   |
| Harrow Recreation Ground, Roxborough Road, Harrow (Harrow Bowls Club)            |
| Kenton Recreation Ground, Carlton Avenue, (Kenton Bowling Club)                  |
| Pinner Memorial Park, West End Lane, Pinner. (Pinner Bowling Club)               |
| Harrow Weald Recreation Ground, Boxtree Lane, Harrow (Harrow Weald Bowling Club) |
| Roxeth Recreation Ground, Kingsley Road (Roxeth Bowling Club)                    |
| Stanmore Recreation Ground, Dennis Lane, (Stanmore Bowls Club)                   |
| West Harrow Recreation Ground, The Ridgeway (West Harrow Bowling Club)           |

## **SECTION III – HARROW BOROUGH – NON-PITCH SPORTS FACILITIES**

- 3.22 **Demand – Individual.** The General Household Survey (GHS) provides a guide to participation in Bowls and together with the CACI analysis undertaken can provide an indication of demand on a local level. The GHS (2002) indicates that 2% of the adult population participate in Lawn Bowls. The CACI analysis indicates that the propensity to participate in Bowls within Harrow Borough is likely to be lower with 1.3% of the adult population is likely to participate.
- 3.23 On the basis of this, there is a need for current supply to accommodate 2,689 bowls participants on a regular basis.
- 3.24 **Supply.** The audit of bowls green provision has revealed that there are **10 greens** currently available for community use. Supply is detailed in Figure 3.8. above

### **Key Assessment Findings: Borough Wide**

- 3.25 **Green Ownership and Management.** The assessment has revealed that LBH is the main provider of Greens as the “owner” of all the ten identified sites.
- 3.26 **Future Demand.** Future demand for Bowls is difficult to estimate. Based on the population projections and the CACI results, there is likely to be a small increase in demand as population increases, particularly in relation to increases in the over 50's population, an age-group with high participation rates in Bowls. However, as most Bowls participation is facilitated via local clubs and organisations (who “manage” green usage), the views of clubs relating to future membership levels need to be considered.
- 3.27 **Consultation.** Of the 10 clubs only one club responded to the consultation exercise. This was Culver Bowls Club whom expected a decrease in their membership. The club had concerns about the future of bowls in Harrow. In general the greens are in good order one or two are poor. Culver stated that Bowls Clubs are generally discontented with harrow Council with regard to pavilions and ancillary provision and that surrounding authorities gave much more support to bowls. Bowls has nether been mentioned in past Harrow Sports Strategies and there may be a case for two of the existing clubs to merge into one club in the near future.
- 3.28 **Quality.** The quality of the greens is perceived as good. The quality of the ancillary provision is perceived as poor.
- 3.29 **Access.** Access has been assessed through a review of membership policies and fees, mapping the location of greens and through consultation with local clubs. Findings in relation to access are:
- None of the facilities are floodlit which could limit usage at the beginning and end of the summer playing season.
- 3.30 **Planned developments.** The assessment has not identified any planned developments for new green provision.

## **SECTION III – HARROW BOROUGH – NON-PITCH SPORTS FACILITIES**

### **Key Assessment Findings: Local Area Analysis**

- 3.31 **Quantity.** Four of the greens are located in the Central area, a further four in the East area and the West Area has 2 greens.
- 3.32 **Quality.** There is no significant variance in the quality of facilities across the borough, with 8 greens rated as “good” and two as poor. None of the facilities are floodlit.

### **Bowls Summary**

- 3.33 **Summary of key findings for Bowls.** A number of key findings have emerged which are summarised as:
- Quality is generally good across the borough. The main qualitative deficiencies relate to the absence of pavilion/changing facilities and lack of floodlighting. Also included within the quality scoring criteria was the presence of information about access. In most cases this was not sufficient.
  - There is unlikely to be a need for significant additional bowls provision in the future. It is perceived that most of the clubs are experiencing decline in their membership. It is likely that some merging of clubs will occur in the future.

### **Other Outdoor Sports**

- 3.34 A number of other sports rely on the provision of outdoor facilities. These are considered in brief within the following section.

### **Athletics**

- 3.35 There is a synthetic athletics track within Harrow Borough at Bannisters Sports Ground. One athletics club Harrow Athletics Club has been identified.
- 3.36 The Athletics Facilities Strategy for the UK (2002-2006) sets provision standards for synthetic athletics facilities which can be used as a framework for assessing need on a local level. The broad standards indicate that there should be one eight lane track in each county and a six lane track with floodlighting per 250,000 people living within 30 minutes drive time. The athletics facility at Bannister satisfies this standard.
- 3.37 Development of a synthetic athletics track is due to take place at Harrow School and should be available for community use in the future.

## SECTION IV – RECOMMENDATIONS

### Recommendations

- 4.1 The following recommendations have been identified from the assessment of key outdoor sports in the borough. There are a number of solutions that need to be considered in relation to findings and issues identified. These can broadly be described as:
- Changing the use of existing pitches
  - Dual-use facilities and greater use of school pitches
  - Enhancing carrying capacity through improving the quality of facilities
  - Management options, including consideration to leasing
  - Development of new pitches
- 4.2 The following recommendations are made with consideration to the above policy options and provide a framework for prioritisation of resources.

### General

#### **G1**

Develop and maintain a club directory. Ensure that key information, including contacts and team information is available.

#### **G2**

Update the supply and demand information collated on an annual basis. A full playing pitch assessment should be repeated every 3-5 years.

#### **G3**

Develop regular consultation with pitch users to establish trend data in relation to satisfaction, ratings of quality and common pitch issues.

#### **G4**

Ensure that partnerships developed to manage facilities, particularly for tennis and bowls are effective through regular monitoring and reporting of usage. Mystery visits could also be programmed.

#### **G5**

Develop a set of criteria for use in decision making on sites which are suitable for long term leasing. These could include the following as a basis:

- Typically sites considered for leasing will currently be used by a single club
- Sites will not be leased unless there are other managed sites within the local area that can be used to accommodate new demand
- Sites will only be leased where they do not make a significant contribution to other typologies

## **SECTION IV – RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **G6**

Given the deficiencies in junior pitch provision, it is recommended that none of the current pitches are used to develop alternative outdoor recreation facilities such as provision for young people and children.

### **Football**

#### **F1**

Use the results of the assessment to re-designate surplus pitches to address deficiencies. This is a priority in:

- Central area – the surplus of senior pitches should be re-designated as Junior and mini pitch provision.
- East area - the surplus of senior pitches should be re-designated as Junior and mini pitch provision.

#### **F2**

Work in partnership with local schools and other pitch providers to gain access to pitches in areas where there is deficiency.

#### **F3.**

Use the findings of the quality ratings (for pitches and ancillary facilities) to prioritise resource allocations, including those allocated from developer contributions.

#### **F4.**

Explore further the development of an additional STP on the Newton Park Playing Field Site.

### **Cricket**

#### **C1**

Maintain the current overall levels of cricket provision across the borough.

#### **C2**

Use the findings of the quality ratings (for pitches and ancillary facilities) to prioritise resource allocations, including those allocated from developer contributions.

### **Rugby**

#### **R1**

Maintain the current level of rugby pitch provision within the borough

## **SECTION IV – RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Hockey**

#### **H1**

Work with Harrow Hockey Club, to maintain access to the STP facilities for Hockey. Ensure prioritisation for hockey fixtures is maintained. Work in partnership to develop additional STP facilities in the Borough.

### **Tennis**

#### **T1**

Maintain current overall levels of court provision

#### **T2**

Improve Harrow Borough tennis facilities by provision of posts and nets and improved surfaces.

#### **T3**

Investigate the costs and restrictions of installing floodlighting at sites serving areas where there is a lack of floodlit courts. This could include working with local schools where provision is available to the local community and there are likely to be less planning restrictions

### **Bowls**

#### **B1**

Hold discussions with clubs and draw up a strategy for bowls, which assists clubs to merge if required to sustain the sport of bowls.

#### **B2**

Provide a refurbishment programme for bowls pavilions and ancillary facilities.

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## **STRATEGIC LEISURE LIMITED**

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